

IF THERE'S SOMETHING
YOU WANT TO TELL ME THAT
WOULDN'T BETRAY SOMEONE'S
TRUST, THAT WOULD BE FINE.

THERE'S NOTHING I'M
DESPERATELY EAGER TO TELL YOU.
I JUST FIND IT ODD THAT YOU--

DING DING

OH, YOU HAVE
GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
WE HAVE TO STOP FOR
A TRAIN? NOW?!

THIS IS WHAT
WE GET FOR NOT
STAYING APPRISED
OF TRAIN
SCHEDULES.

WE'RE
GOING TO
BE MINUTES
BEHIND THEM
NOW!

OH NO! DIANE AND
CHARLOTTE MIGHT BE IN A
LOCKED CAR IN A WELL-LIT
PARKING LOT WITHOUT
OUR PROTECTION FOR A
COUPLE OF MINUTES!

DING DING DING DING DING DING

YOUR HEART'S IN THE
RIGHT PLACE, NANASE, BUT
YOU'RE BEING SILLY!

DM

...YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

DING DING

CHOO CHOO



WELL, UH...
THAT CERTAINLY
WAS A LOT TO
TAKE IN.

TELL
ME ABOUT
IT.



NOT ONLY IS ELLIOT
CHEERLEADER, BUT HE
CAN TURN INTO OTHER
GIRLS, TOO! AND HE
THOUGHT THAT OUTFIT
LOOKED COOL?

HE ALSO
REALLY SEEMS TO
HAVE HIT IT OFF
WITH A CUTE GIRL
WHO'S INTO THAT
SORT OF THING?



HOW DO I
COMPETE WITH
THAT?! DO I
WANT TO
COMPETE WITH
THAT?

ELLIOT SEEMS
LIKE A GENUINELY
GOOD GUY, BUT IS
THAT ENOUGH? I
MEAN, THERE'S
MORE TO CONSIDER,
RIGHT?



I WAS REFERRING
MORE TO YOU BEING
A POTENTIAL VAMPIRE
HUNTER.

WHAT, THAT
GARBAGE?



GARBAGE?

YEAH, GARBAGE! I'M NOT
GOING TO HUNT VAMPIRES,
AND SHE ALSO THINKS
NANASE IS A PRINCESS!
THAT GRIFFIN'S FULL OF IT!



SHE ALSO
KNEW ELLEN
WAS ELLIOT'S
TWIN.

OH MY GOD! SHE DEDUCED
THAT THE PEOPLE WITH
NEARLY IDENTICAL FACES
ARE TWINS?! SHE MUST BE
A WIZARD GRIFFIN!



OH MY GOD. I THINK SHE
REALLY *HASN'T* EVER
BEEN ON A DATE...

OF *COURSE*
SHE *HASN'T*. SHE'S
A *HUGE NERD*.

MAYBE WE
SHOULD
APOLOGIZE.

FOR *WHAT*?
EVERYTHING WE SAID
WAS *TRUE!*

WHICH *OBVIOUSLY*
MAKES IT *WORSE!*

SHE THINKS BEING SOME *LONER*
WEIRDO MAKES HER *BETTER* THAN
US! SHE *SHOULD* FEEL *BAD!*

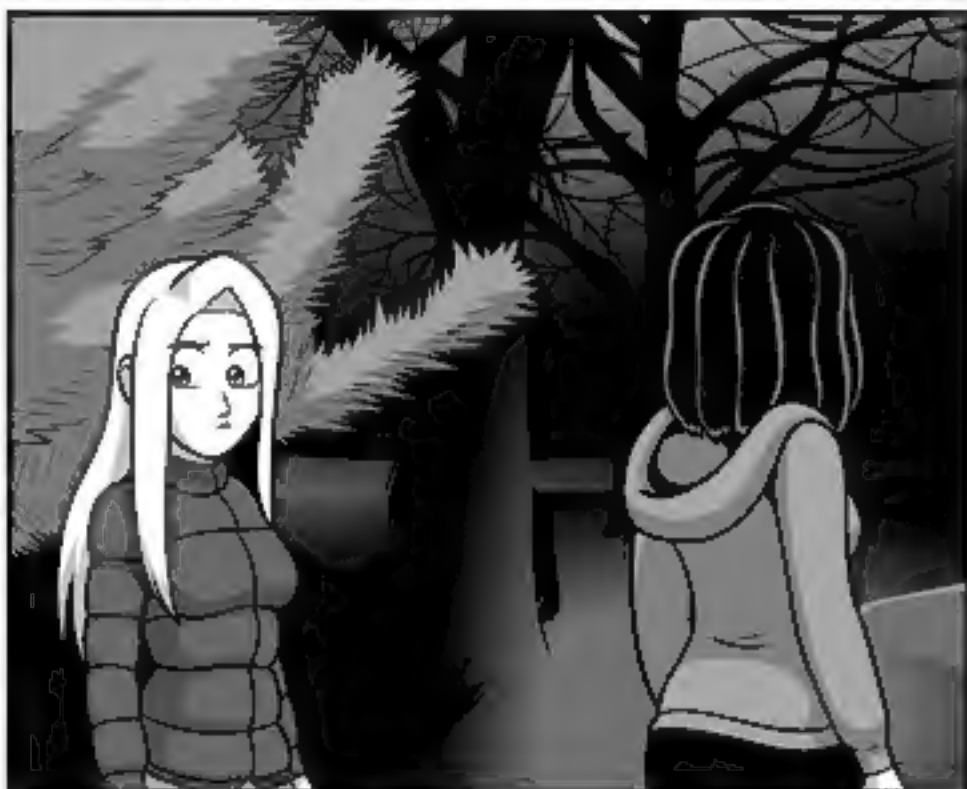
RIGHT?
BACK ME UP
ON THIS.

VWMM

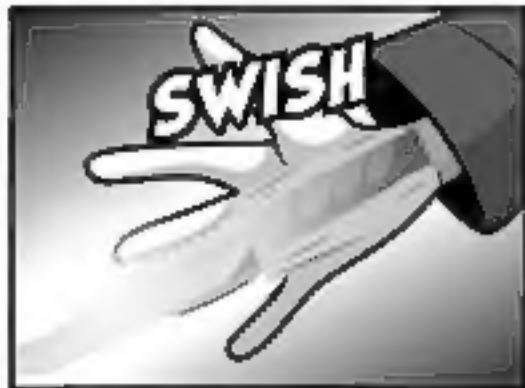
MY WEB
DETECTS...

A HUNTER...?

LITTLE BABY
HUNTER...







STALL YOU HAVE
SO MUCH BACK UP
ON THE WAY, *STALL!*

WH-
WHAT ARE
YOU?

I AM A
VAMPIRE, ONE
ONCE MORTAL
WHO ABANDONED
EMPATHY, AND
WHO KILLS FOR
EVERLASTING
LIFE.

PEOPLE SAY
THAT MAKES ME
A MONSTER...

...BUT
EVERYBODY'S
GOTTA EAT,
DON'T THEY?

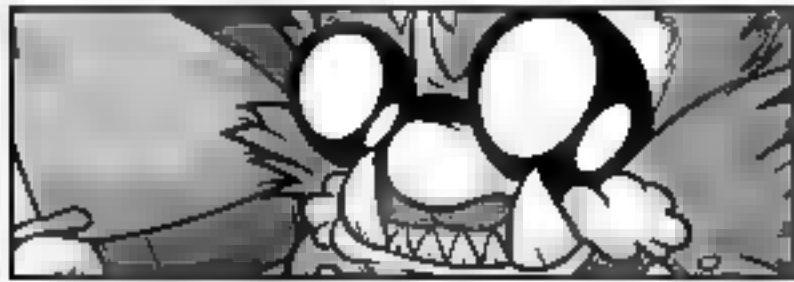
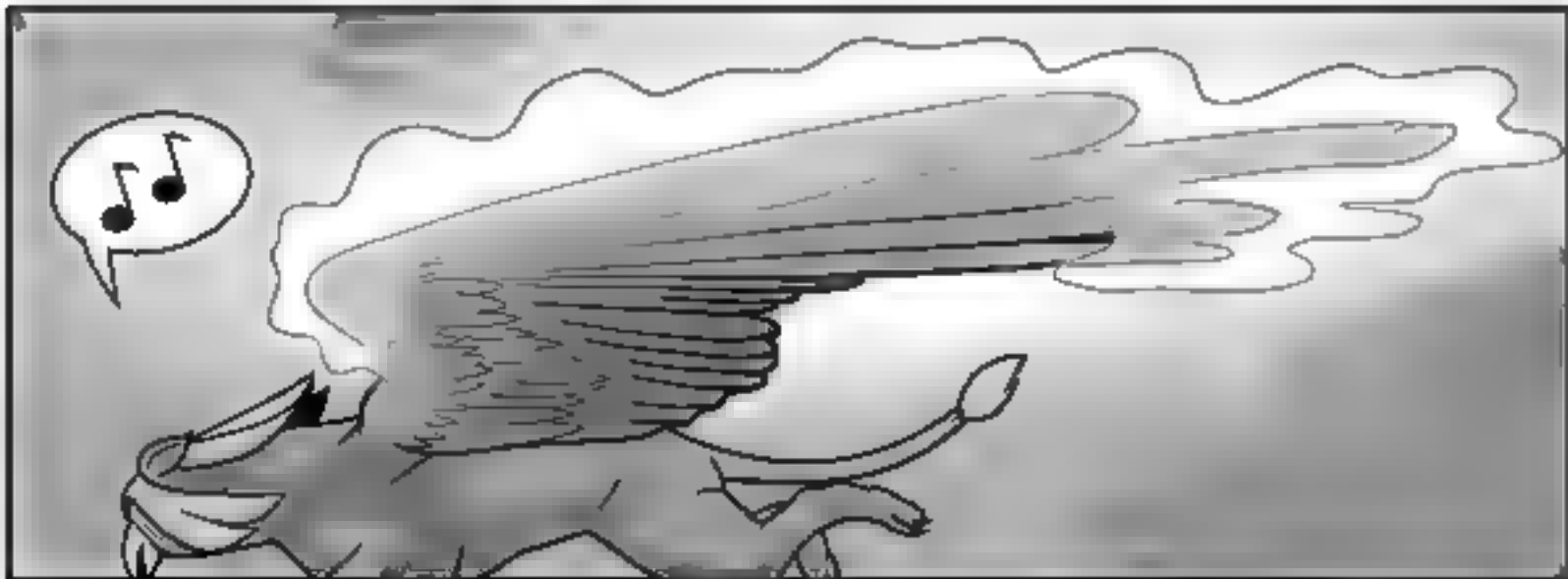
AND AIN'T NOBODY *PALS*
'WIT THEIR *FOOD*, ARE

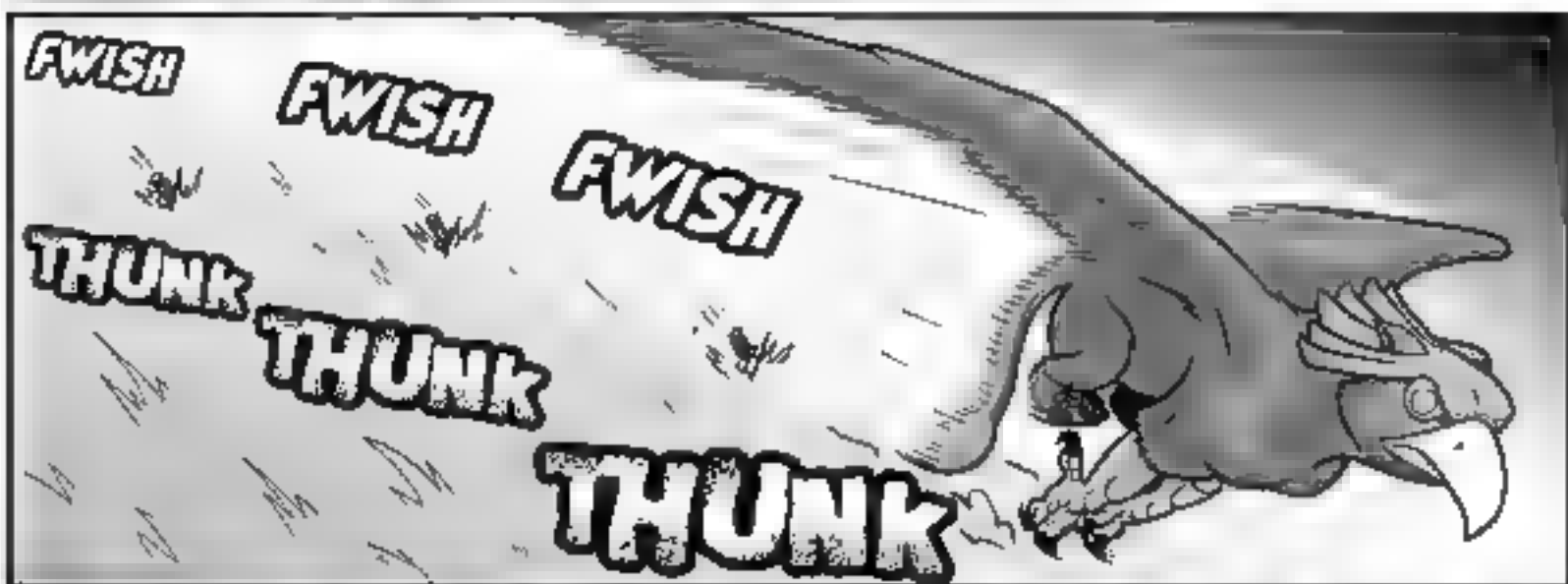
THWOOOSH

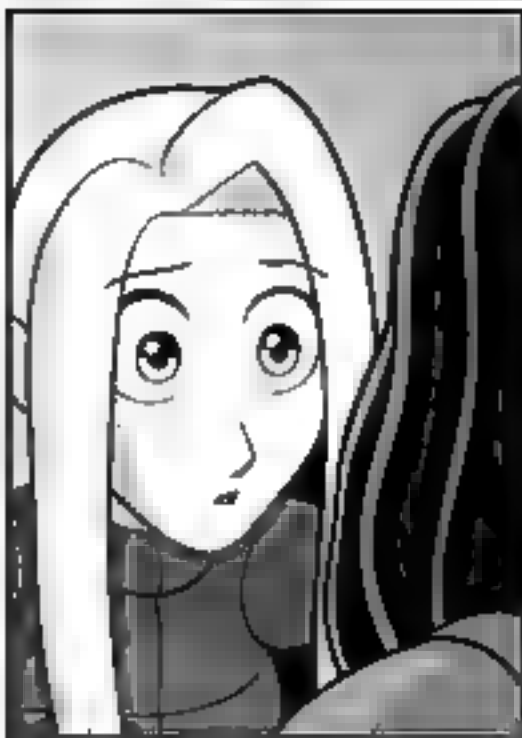
⇒BLINK⇒
⇒BLINK⇒



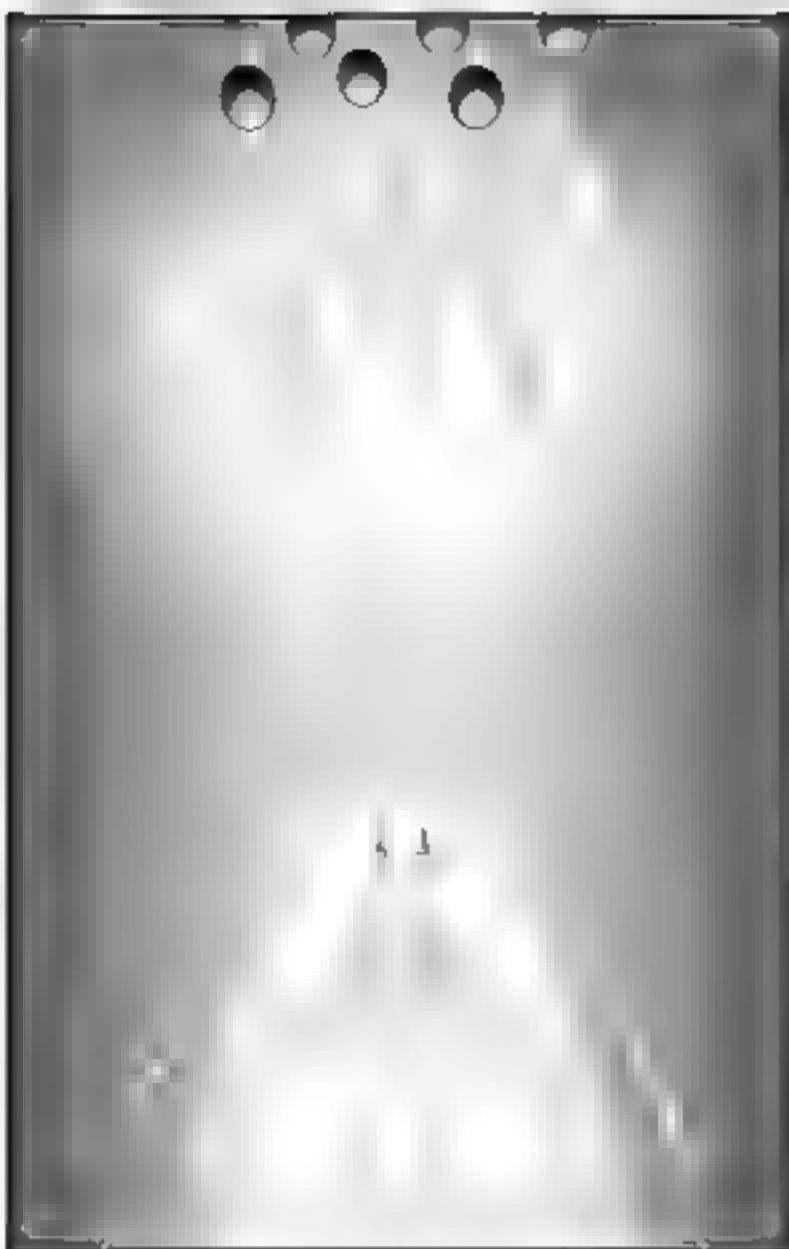












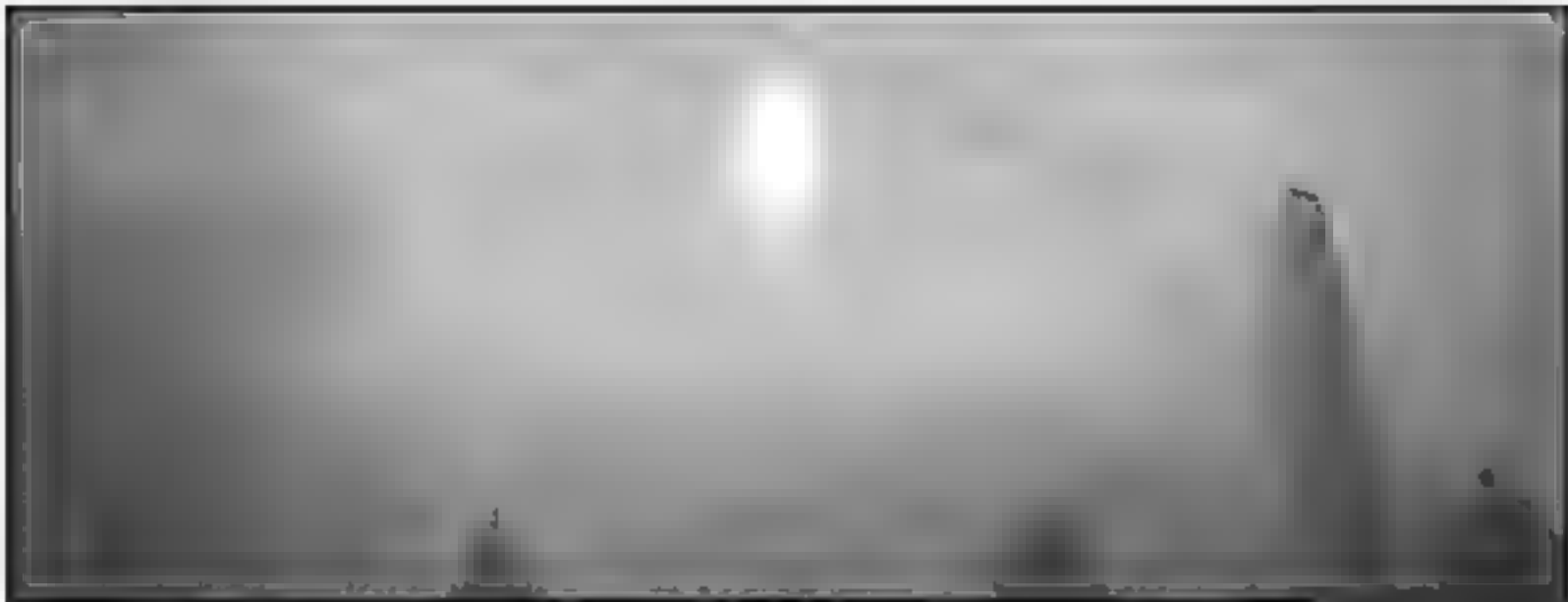
TIGER

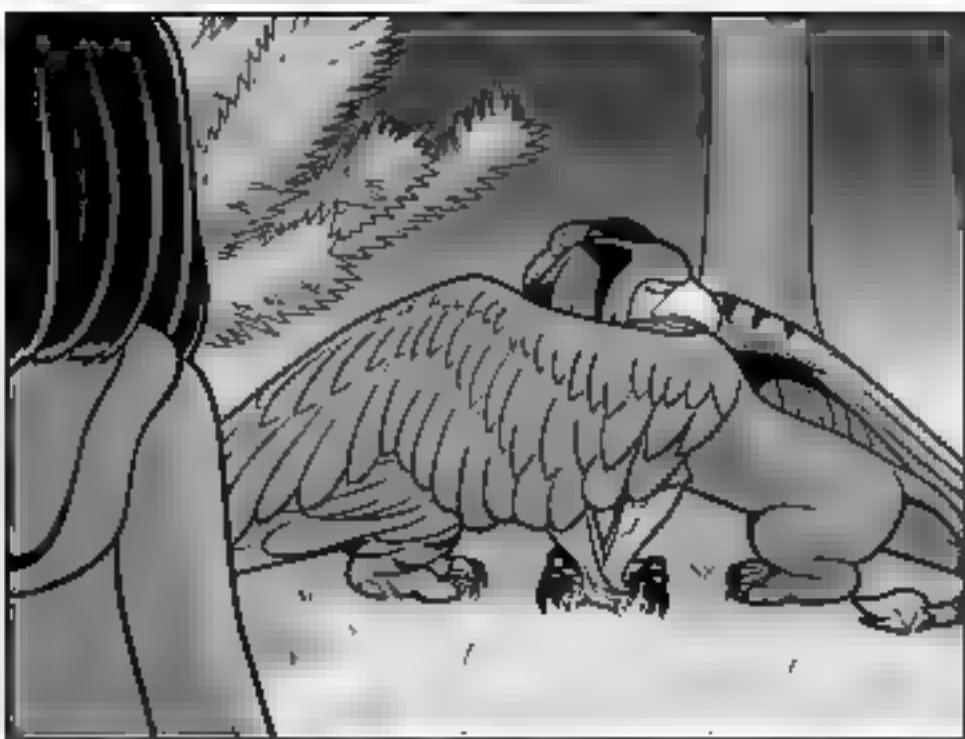


EAGLE



GUILLOTINE









WE NEED TO GO! THAT EXPLOSION *MUST* HAVE GOTTEN PEOPLE'S ATTENTION!



DID YOU HEAR AN EXPLOSION?

SOUNDED LIKE FIREWORKS AGAIN.



WHAT'S PEOPLE'S EXCUSE *THIS* TIME? "YAY SATURDAY?"

PROBABLY MORE LIKE "WE'VE GOT FIREWORKS LEFT OVER FROM NEW YEARS"



DANG KIDS. GOT HALF A MIND TO REPORT THEM.

OUR SHOW'S ABOUT TO START DEAR.

EHHH. I'LL LET IT GO. *THIS* TIME



THE POLICE WILL BE HERE AT ANY SECOND



OKAY, OKAY YOU KNOW HOW TO GET TO CHARLOTTE'S APARTMENT, RIGHT?

YEAH. GOOD IDEA. I'LL MEET YOU ALL THERE

AND HOPEFULLY GET SOME ANSWERS...



ARE YOU STILL... BUT HOW ARE YOU ANSWERING THIS? ELLEN TOLD ME YOU WOULDN'T HAVE YOUR PHONE IF YOU WEREN'T CHANGED BACK YET

YOU'RE CALLING ME ON A PHONE?

UH. YEAH ?

THIS IS A PHONE CALL?

JM

I DON'T HAVE MY PHONE! I JUST SORT OF... BUZZED ALL OVER, AND NOW WE'RE TALKING!

OH MY GOD. YOU MERGED WITH YOUR PHONE?!

I GUESS?

THAT'S SO COOL! HOW DID YOU ANSWER?

I DON'T KNOW HOW I ANSWERED I JUST

You pressed your arm against your stomach immediately prior to replying to something.

WHAT?

WHAT?

I believe it is reasonable to conclude that your belly button is functioning somewhat literally at this time.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!

You have spell books in this half of the world, yes? it's possible you should reference yours with greater frequency.





An AVATAR spell?!
GASP And with
PERSISTENCE? That is
RARE, your highness.
VERY rare.



I'M, UH...
I'M NOT A
PRINCESS.

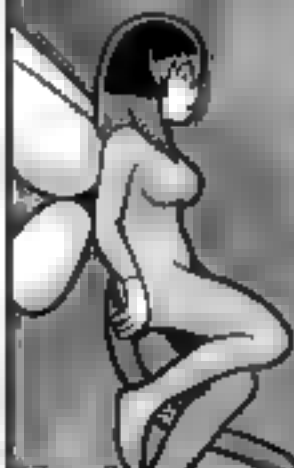


Right. Forgive me. Where I am from,
the royal bloodlines of humans have the
strongest magic of all the humans.



It DOES feel strange to not
address you as royalty when you
can produce such an avatar.

MAKING A
LITTLE FAIRY
APPEAR IS THAT
IMPRESSIVE?



Do you have ANY idea how
many laws of physics you've
broken just by making that fairy,
your high--ER ma'am?



WE VIEW THE
LAWS OF PHYSICS
MORE AS POLITE
SUGGESTIONS.

ELLIOT
CAN YOU
TELL
ASHLEY
I'M
HERE?



PROBABLY
ASHLEY, YOU
THERE?

YEAH.

NANASE'S
HERE NOW

THAT IS
SO COOL!
I BET
SHE'S
ADORABLE!



UH

OH RIGHT
TALKING OUT
LOUD.





We are always happy to assist those who might otherwise become victims of vampires.

And killing vampires. That's always good.

It's possible the vampire's reason for being here was related to my own.

THE ENERGY CLOG.

TARA MENTIONED IT THERE'S A LOT OF EXTRA MAGIC ENERGY AROUND HERE, AND YOU'RE INVESTIGATING AN ENERGY CLOG

THERE'S SOME SORT OF LINK BETWEEN THE MAGIC IN OUR WORLD AND YOURS. ISN'T THERE?

It is, in fact, the **SAME** energy, just as it is also the **SAME** WORLD.

It's the **SAME** WORLD, Tara.

Yes, Andrea, but for all intents and purposes...

Sort of.

ALL intents and purposes?! They are of the same reality, and share a magic bond!

Okay, maybe not **ALL** intents and purposes, but it's basically a whole different world aside from that, right?

"Aside from **THAT**"? Do you understand how **IMPORTANT** that is?

Of course I don't! **YOU'RE** the scientist! I slash things!

WELL, NOW THIS ALL MAKES SENSE.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR WORLD IS OUR WORLD. EITHER, COULD YOU EXPLAIN PLEASE?



Certainly. Are you familiar with the existence of other universes?



WE'VE MET PEOPLE FROM OTHER UNIVERSES, YES.

MY SISTER HAS MEMORIES OF LIVING IN ONE



I... my goodness. That's far from the answer I was expecting.

In any case, imagine each universe as a coin...

THE KNOWN UNIVERSE

WHERE LOST SOCKS GO

SOME UNKNOWN UNIVERSE

STEVEN UNIVERSE



...And each coin has two sides. Each side is different and cannot see the other, but they are still connected.



Though there ARE exciting theories about them being more like DICE, which would help explain many fluctuations in the flow of magic at certain points in the world, and provide explanations for the apparent CREATION and DESTRUCTION of matter, which SHOULD be im--



BESIDE THE POINT! Beside the point. Point is, at least two sides. One world., They share magic.

And this city of yours is SUPPOSED to be one of the spots where magic flows back to our side, but it's not.



For a long time, the flow of magic was simply slower. It's reached a point now, however, that we're not sure ANY is getting through.

Our side has no shortage of magic energy, but this has inconvenienced those who formerly made use of that particular energy influx, and might be indicative of a bigger problem.



SO YOU DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE

Yes.

DID YOU FIND OUT WHY THIS IS HAPPENING?



Unfortunately, no. My "accomplishments" include losing track of where to go to get back home, NOT finding anyone with useful information, AND confirming things I COULD have confirmed from HOME.



YOU ALSO HELPED SAVE OUR FRIENDS FROM A VAMPIRE.



Well, if I'm allowed to count vampire slayings, then I've killed half a dozen while here.



Y-YOU'VE KILLED. HALF A DOZEN?

INCLUDING THE SPIDER VAMPIRE?!



No, Tara finished off that one.

SIX VAMPIRES? And you say you're not a fighter!

Oh, stop.



SEVEN VAMPIRES.
THERE HAVE BEEN
SEVEN VAMPIRES IN
DOWNTOWN
MOPERVILLE?

THAT WE
KNOW OF

I doubt it's more
than that. Two of your
"immortals" assisted in
my hunting them.

Two? Spikey hair,
look like brother
and sister?

YES!
You've
met?

Briefly. It's a long story,
but they helped us sneak
out of a mall earlier.

That explains it. They were about
to tell me something when they
suddenly sent me after the vampire.
At least, I HOPE they were going
to tell me they found you.

Why wouldn't they?

They've been thrilled to have me
around killing vampires for them, and
they've had no success finding where
I need to go to get back home.

On top of that,
they supposedly
missed that you
were on this side
of the world
looking for me.

I can't help but wonder if they would
have withheld information to keep me
around and killing vampires for them.

They have helped me stay hidden, so I'm grateful for that, at least, and the slaying of vampires is a noble endeavor.

One better done by natives to this world, but I was available.

SO THE ENERGY IS ATTRACTING VAMPIRES, AND IT'S ALREADY ATTRACTED SEVEN...

Possibly. Possibly not.

POSSIBLY NOT?

WHAT ELSE WOULD BRING THEM HERE?

I don't know. I had ASSUMED it was the ambient energy, but while fighting the spider vampire...

T'HELL WITH LOW PROFILES!

Profiles. PLURAL. I am not certain, but it gave me the impression of an ORGANIZED GROUP.

Vampires working together is very rare. They lack a desire for companionship, and more commonly view each other as competition.

If a common goal is found, or enough compensation given, however, vampires WILL work together. it's possible someone is pulling the strings.

OKAY SO. ONE MORE REASON THINGS ARE WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT

Look on the bright side. If it's the energy, they're just randomly showing up.

If someone's pulling strings? **STRINGS CAN BE CUT.**

I'M GLAD NANASE IS THERE
WITH ELLIOT SHE'S ONE OF
THE SMARTEST PEOPLE I KNOW
WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION..



WHY DID SHE CAST
THE SPELL WHILE STILL
OUT HERE?!

RAISES THE
QUESTION. AND
WE DON'T KNOW IF
MY ROOMMATES
ARE BACK.



SHE COULD
HAVE AT LEAST
GONE BACK IN
THE CAR. AND
"RAISES THE
QUESTION"?

BEGGING THE QUESTION
REFERS TO CIRCULAR
REASONING AND ASSUMING
THE CONCLUSION OF AN
ARGUMENT



THAT DOESN'T
SOUND AT ALL
LIKE WHAT IT
SHOULD MEAN.

YES, BUT THE ORIGINAL
PHRASE HAS ITS ORIGIN
IN A MISTRANSLATION OF
THE LATIN PHRASE



WAIT AM I INSISTING YOU STICK
TO A USAGE MOST PEOPLE WON'T
UNDERSTAND ORIGINATING FROM
MISTRANSLATED LATIN?



YES.

I APOLOGIZE



I'm afraid I don't know anything more about the immortal who deceived me.

Ancients always have some bigger picture in mind, but he was helping me find Andrea, and I believed he couldn't lie, so I didn't question his motives.

The ancients on this side have a different agreement than ours!

Well, I know that NOW.

I've told you about it before!

WHAT?! When did you--

Did you know that the ancients on the other side of the world have a **COMPLETELY DIFFERENT** agreement than ours? They can even **LIE**! Can you imagine Ancients **LYING**?

You're **CUTE** when you're nerdy.

Oh, stop.

WHOOOPS.

"WHOOOPS"?!

I think that's everything.
If there's nothing else, we are
very eager to return home.

WILL YOU
BE COMING
BACK?

Possibly. The energy problem
does persist, but I'm not sure what
more we can do from this side.

THING IS. NOW THAT
WE KNOW ABOUT THE
CLOG WE MIGHT
KNOW SOMEONE WHO
CAN LOOK INTO IT

REALLY?!

WE KNOW
PEOPLE WHO ARE
ALREADY TRYING
TO FIGURE OUT
THE ENERGY
BUILDUPS.

THEY DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON, BUT
MAYBE THEY'LL
FIGURE SOME-
THING OUT
BASED ON
WHAT YOU'VE
TOLD US?

We really *MUST*
return home, but if
they find anything...

What if we
met back here in
a few weeks?

Time for us to rest for a bit
and their allies to research...
Might we meet back here after
sunset four weeks from now?

MEET HERE U.M... WELL
FOUR WEEKS FROM NOW
IS A SATURDAY SO THAT
SHOULD BE FINE...



Is there some-
thing wrong with
this location?



Aside from the risk of
tree branches to the face.

MAYBE... I THINK
WE CAN FIND THIS
SPOT AGAIN, AND WE'D
SEE YOU SO...



That's a good point.
I'm trusting Tara can
find this spot again...

I have memorized
the tree formations.



...but it will be night again, and we'll
be trying to stay out of sight, so...

AREN'T YOU
A CELL PHONE
NOW?

THAT'S NOT
HOW I WOULD
PUT IT...



YOU'VE GOT A MAP APP WITH
GPS, RIGHT? COULD YOU BOOKMARK
OUR COORDINATES?

HOW THE FORK
WOULD I.

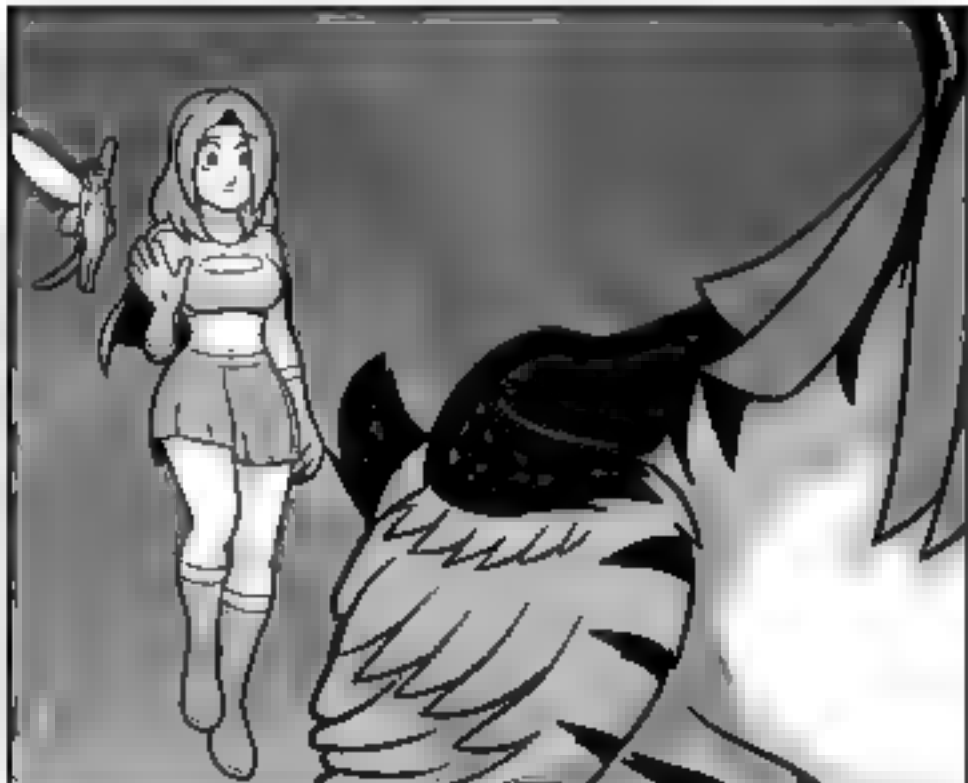


I KNOW OUR EXACT GPS
COORDINATES AND CAN SEE WHAT
LOOKS LIKE A FLOATING PICTURE
OF A SATELITE VIEW OF HERE

I ALSO
KNOW WHERE
ALL THE NEARBY
RESTAURANTS
ARE



Until we meet again.



AND NEXT
COMES THE
REAL SCARY
PART

TALKING TO
TEDD'S DAD ABOUT
ALL THIS?



TELLING SUSAN
SHE MIGHT BE ADOPTED
AND INTRODUCING HER
TO DIANE.



UH

WHAT?



DIANE WAS TARGETED BECAUSE
SHE HAS A DETECTABLE AFFINITY FOR
A TYPE OF MAGIC THAT VAMPIRES ARE
VULNERABLE TO. THE SAME THING
HAPPENED IN FRANCE WITH SUSAN!

THE GRIFFINS
KILLED SEVEN
VAMPIRES WHILE
THEY WERE HERE
AND THEY
JUST LEFT!

DIANE'S AT
GREATER RISK
THAN ANYONE
RIGHT NOW! SHE
NEEDS THE FULL
STORY AND
THAT INCLUDES
SUSAN!



OKAY OKAY YOU'RE
RIGHT ABOUT DIANE
NEEDING HELP BUT
ARE YOU SURE SHE
AND SUSAN--



LOOK THE SAME SOUND THE SAME
SIMILAR PERSONALITIES. BORN WITHIN
TWENTY MINUTES OF EACH OTHER,
DIANE WAS DEFINITELY ADOPTED.
SAME MAGIC AFFINITY, AND AN
IMMORTAL PROTECTED DIANE WHILE
ACTING ON FAVORS OWED SUSAN.

SO... YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF REASONS TO THINK THEY'RE SISTERS. AND YOU THINK SUSAN MIGHT BE ADOPTED BECAUSE YOU KNOW DIANE WAS ADOPTED AND WHY WOULD YOU PUT ONLY ONE TWIN UP FOR ADOPTION?



YES.

YOU KNOW THAT'S THE WHOLE COVER STORY MY FAMILY HAS FOR ELLEN, RIGHT?



AND IT'S A TERRIBLE COVER STORY!

NO IT'S. OKAY, YEAH, MAYBE IT IS.



AND AN IMMORTAL DID DIANE A FAVOR FOR SUSAN?

HE STOPPED HER FROM DRINKING THE PUNCH ON NEW YEARS AND SAID HE OWED DIANE'S SISTER A FAVOR.

AT LEAST WE'RE PRETTY SURE WHO DID THAT



OKAY... MAYBE SUSAN WAS ADOPTED, BUT THAT'S NOT THE SORT OF THING YOU WANT TO TELL SOMEONE WITHOUT BEING SURE



THE MOST WE CAN BE SURE OF IS THAT SHE MIGHT BE ADOPTED, AND WE'RE WAY PAST THE POINT WHERE WE CAN KEEP PUTTING IT OFF!

WE CAN ASK TEDD'S DAD! WE'LL HAVE TO TALK TO HIM TOMORROW ANYWAY



YOU WANT HIS OPINION ON WHETHER WE SHOULD TELL HER?

NO. I WANT TO KNOW IF SUSAN'S ADOPTED. THERE'S NO WAY HE DOESN'T KNOW





MY UNCLE DOESN'T
KNOW EVERYTHING



NO HE DOESN'T
BUT THERE'S NO WAY
HE HASN'T DONE
BACKGROUND CHECKS
ON EVERY FRIEND
TEDD HAS EVER HAD



OH MY GOD YOU'RE RIGHT!
HE'D BE EXTRA THOROUGH,
TOO! HE'D WANT TO KNOW IF
ANYONE THEY'RE CONNECTED
WITH MIGHT BE AN ISSUE!



AND HE'LL HAVE
ADVICE ON HOW TO HELP
DIANE, AND HE CAN ALERT
GOVERNMENT FUNDED
VAMPIRE HUNTERS OR
WHOEVER!




HMPH.

WHAT?




NOTHING. YOU'RE
RIGHT I'M JUST
ANNOYED OUR
SOLUTION IS "MY
UNCLE WILL SOLVE
EVERYTHING"

DON'T WORRY I'M SURE
SOMETHING WILL KEEP IT
FROM BEING THAT SIMPLE




I GUESS I'D
BETTER FLY OVER
TO CHARLOTTE'S
APARTMENT



DO YOU KNOW
THE WAY FROM
HERE?

NOT REALLY
BUT I HAVE
GPS, SO...



PLAN A HAS
FAILED I LIKED
PLAN A.


PLAN A WOULD
HAVE GOTTEN THE
JOB DONE WITH
ONE MURDER.

STILL, ELLIOT
IS ALIVE. SO PLAN
B'S STILL ON
THE TABLE



I HATE
PLAN B.

IT OUGHT
TO BE PLAN
"CM" FOR
"COMPLICATED
MESS"



I SUPPOSE I AM IN
A POSITION TO DECIDE
SUCH THINGS.

RIGHT
ONWARD WITH
PLAN CM.

BZZ
BZZ

"SPAWNED"
THIS IS EITHER A
TELEMARKETER,
OR.

HELLO?

HEY
SIRLECK

YOU.

ME!

DO YOU REALIZE
HOW LONG I'VE
BEEN WAITING FOR A
PROGRESS REPORT?!

DO YOU REALZE
HOW DIFFICULT IT
S TO FIGURE OUT
WHAT IMMORTALS
ARE DOING? I M
GOOD BUT NOBODY
IS THAT GOOD

ANYWAY
FINALLY CONF RMED
THEY'RE NO LONGER
WATCHING YOUR BOY
TWENTY-FOUR
SEVEN



NO I WILL
NOT "TURN AROUND
WHEN POSSIBLE"!

I'M FLYING! I DON'T
CARE WHERE THE EXITS
ARE IN THE SUBDIVISION
DOWN THERE!

I'M GOING TO TELL TEDD ABOUT
THIS LATER. AND HE'S GOING TO SAY
SOMETHING LIKE "OH. YOU SHOULD
HAVE DONE BLAH BLAH BLAH INSTEAD
OF MAP DIRECTIONS"

AND THEN
HE'S GOING TO
PUT ME IN
CARGO PANTS
AND STUFF THE
POCKETS FULL
OF ELECTRONICS
BEFORE TELLING
ME TO START
CHEERING.

PART PHONE... SO
WEIRD... BUT COOL. I GUESS
EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS
FORM IS COOL, REALLY

I MEAN,
LOOK AT ME!
I'M FLYING! I'M
SUPER STRONG!
I CAN TURN
INTO ALTER
EGOS AND FEEL
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
WHENEVER I
WANT, AND I'M
CUTE AND
SEXY!


I MEAN, JM...

AH, TO HELL WITH IT!
I'M CUTE AND SEXY AND
I LOVE THIS FORM!


WWM




SO WHAT IS
YOUR ANGLE IN ALL
THIS. VOLTAIRE?




ABNER, ABNER! WHAT A
QUESTION! YOU KNOW HOW
IMMORTALS OPERATE



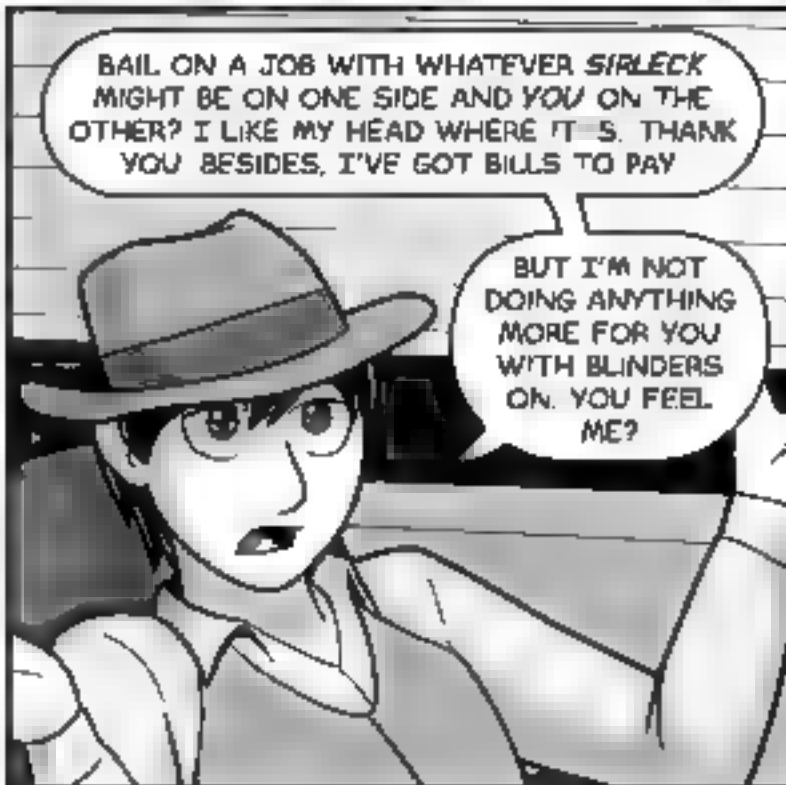
YEAH, I DO. WAY BACK WHEN
YOU TOLD ME TO RECONSIDER AN
IMPOSSIBLE JOB I'D ALREADY
TURNED DOWN YOU TOLD ME
THERE WAS A BIGGER PICTURE
HERE SOME *GREATER GOOD* TO
ME PLAYING MIDDLEMAN



BUT AFTER HEARING WHAT
WENT DOWN AT THE MALL?
THE GREATER GOOD ANGLE'S
LOOKING A BIT *MURKY*




MYSTERIOUS WAYS,
ABNER *CURIOUS* THAT
YOU DID NOT EXPRESS
THESE CONCERNS *BEFORE*
CALLING SIRLECK




BAIL ON A JOB WITH WHATEVER *SIRLECK*
MIGHT BE ON ONE SIDE AND YOU ON THE
OTHER? I LIKE MY HEAD WHERE IT IS. THANK
YOU BESIDES, I'VE GOT BILLS TO PAY

BUT I'M NOT
DOING ANYTHING
MORE FOR YOU
WITH BLINDERS
ON. YOU FEEL
ME?



THERE IS
NOTHING MORE I
NEED FROM YOU
BUT REST
ASSURED...



I WILL
MAKE THIS WORLD
A BETTER PLACE.

VAMPIRES HAVE A WEAKNESS TO MAGIC WEAPONS. AND THE MORE MAGIC SAVVY VAMPIRES FIND WAYS TO DETECT PEOPLE WITH A NATURAL TALENT FOR THEM.

I DON'T DO MAGIC OR WEAPONS.

YOU HAVE AN INHERITED AFFINITY FOR THEM, WHICH IS WHAT TARA WAS TALKING ABOUT IF YOU DID GET MAGIC. YOU'D NATURALLY BE GOOD WITH MAGIC WEAPONS.

WHICH IS WHY YOU WERE TARGETED. AND...

...AND WHY SUSAN WAS TARGETED A FEW YEARS BACK.

YOU THINK SUSAN IS MY SISTER.

I WHAT?

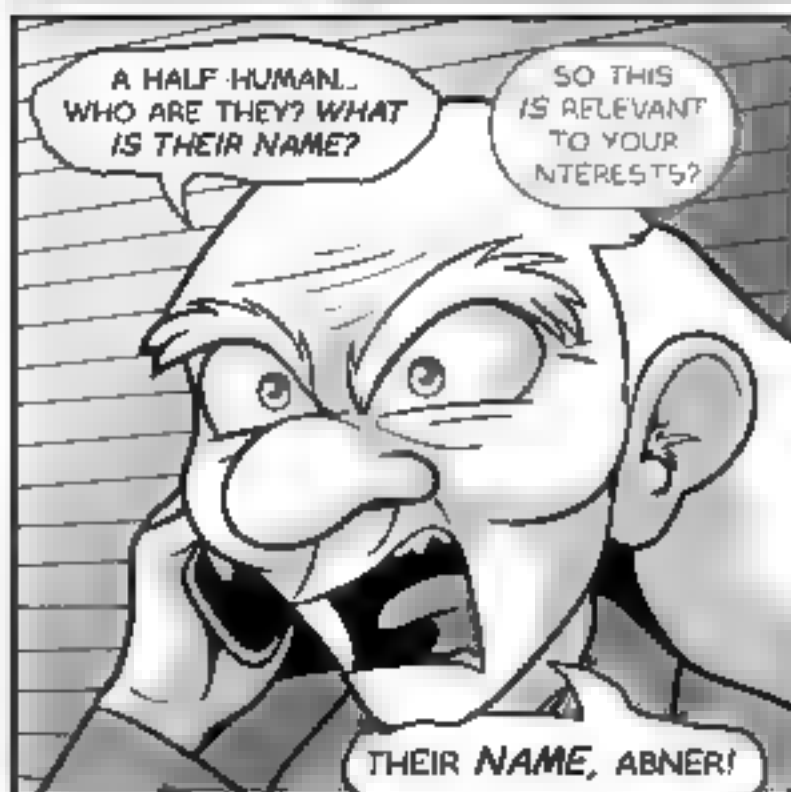
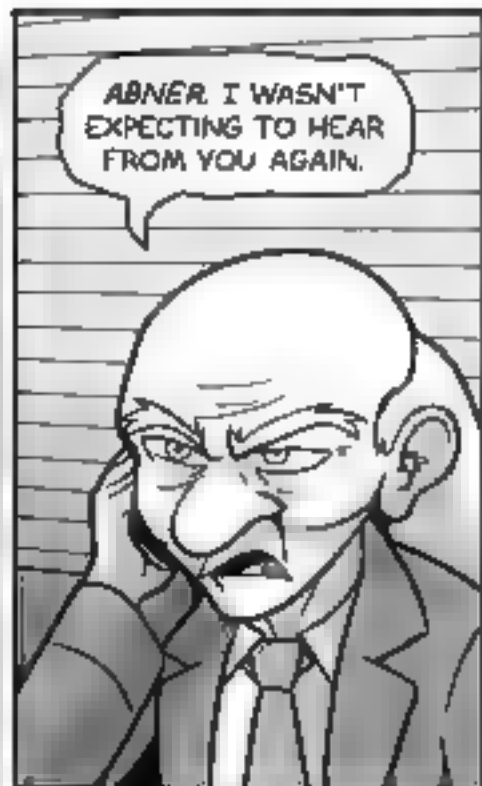
IT'S OBVIOUS! YOUR BEHAVIOR AT THE NEW YEARS EVE PARTY, THAT GUY WHO OWED "MY SISTER" A FAVOR YOUR FACE WHEN I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT!

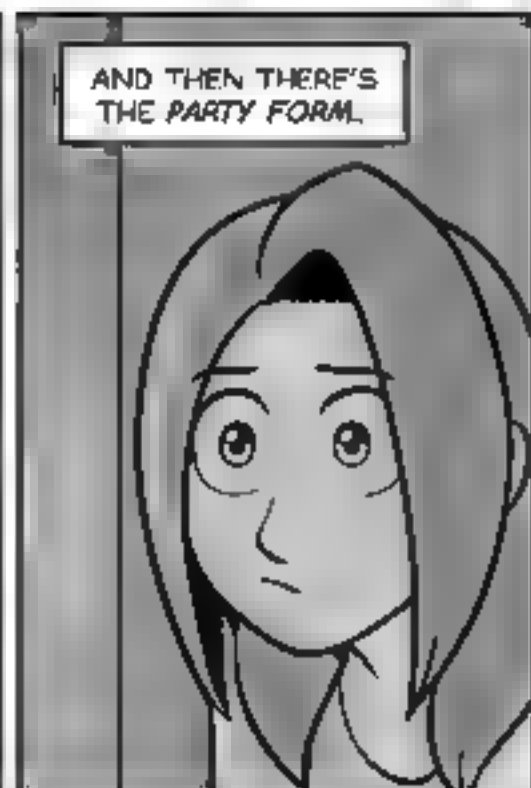
THAT FAVOR HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH KILLING VAMPIRES, DIDN'T IT?

UM... YES. IT DID.

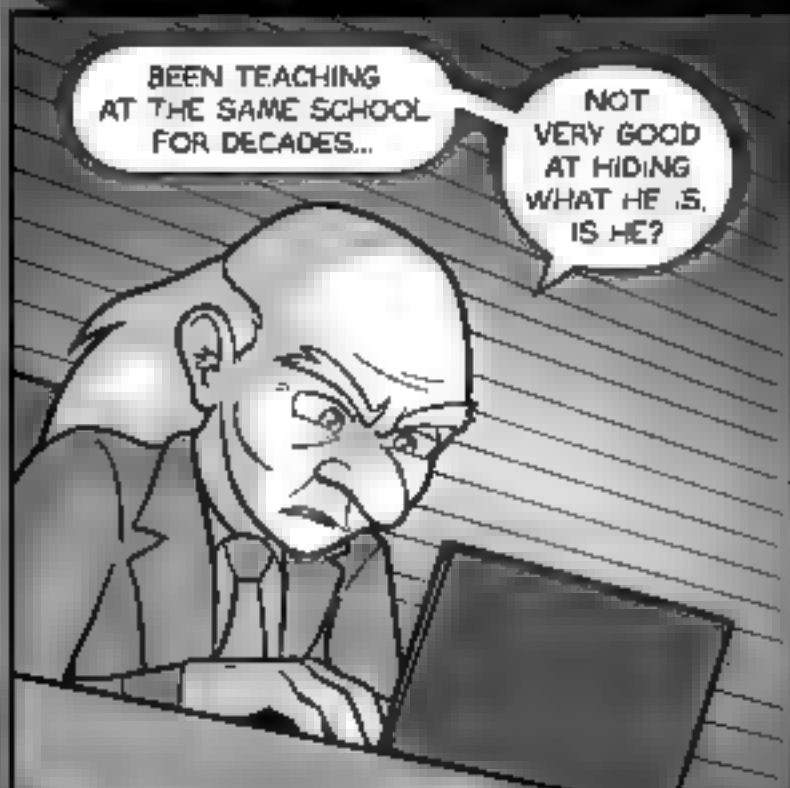
AND SUSAN'S ADOPTED, RIGHT? THAT'S ANOTHER REASON YOU THINK WE COULD BE SISTERS?

WE UH... HIGHLY SUSPECT SHE MIGHT *MAYBE* BE ADOPTED, *POSSIBLY*...









I AM ONLY GOING TO HAVE ONE SHOT AT THIS. THOSE TWO IMMORTALS MUST BE DISTRACTED!

THE HALF-BREED BEING IN REAL DANGER WOULD SUFFICE BUT HE'S ALLOWED TO DEFEND HIMSELF

I DOUBT JUST ONE OR TWO "VAMPIRES" WOULD BE AN ACTUAL THREAT TO HIM.

VERY WELL, THEN. I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO ABANDON MOST OF MY CURRENT WEALTH IN ANY CASE.



I WILL RAIN HELL DOWN ON MOPERVILLE.

So A Date At The Mail - Title and
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Q&A #7 begins Monday, May 23
And after that, some story arc with "3" in the title.



Please recap how magic works.

THAT'S NOT
A QUESTION.

IT COULD
BE AS ONE

BUT IT
WASN'T

THIS ISN'T
JEOPARDY

PEOPLE ARE GENERALLY SLEEPING, DREAMING, OR AWAKENED.

Sleeping
No spells

Dreaming
Limited spells,
won't naturally
get new spells.

Awakened
Will naturally get
new personalized
spells so long as
they keep using
magic

IF SOMEONE HAS A
MAGIC MARK, THEY'RE
DREAMING. SHOULD THEY
AWAKEN, THE MARK
VANISHES.

IF SOMEONE AWAKENS DUE TO
AN EXTERNAL FACTOR (OTHER
THAN AN IMMORTAL), THEY RISK
EXPERIENCING ENERGY BUILDUPS
FOR A WHILE THAT WILL FORCE
THEM TO USE MAGIC.

MOST PEOPLE WHO AWAKEN
ONLY LEARN NEW SPELLS BY
USING MAGIC, BUT "WIZARDS"
ARE THOSE BORN WITH THE
ABILITY TO LEARN OTHER
PEOPLE'S SPELLS AFTER
THEY'VE AWAKENED.

TEDD WAS EXPECTED TO BE A
POWERFUL WIZARD DUE TO HIS
FAMILY HISTORY BUT TURNED
OUT TO BE SOMETHING NONE
REMEMBER THAT CAN SEE
AND RESIST MAGIC...

DUN-
DUN-
DUN!

Diane has changed a lot over time. Is there a reason for this?

I DON'T REMEMBER HER TRANSFORMING.

I THINK THEY MEAN CHARACTER WISE.

OH, RIGHT

SHE SHOULD TRANSFORM.

DIANE HASN'T CHANGED THAT MUCH. SHE'S STILL CONCERNED ABOUT APPEARANCES, RELATIVELY SELFISH (NEXT TO OTHER PEOPLE WE FOCUS ON) AND DESIRES NANASE'S APPROVAL.

IF NOT OTHER THINGS.

IT'S ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT WE DIDN'T INITIALLY GET A GOOD LOOK AT HER INNER THOUGHTS, AND HER FIRST APPEARANCE WAS NEARLY A YEAR AGO IN CONTINUITY



NOT ONLY IS THAT TIME TO GROW AND MATURE AS A PERSON, BUT SHE'D BEEN DOING THE SUPERFICIAL "BUY ME STUFF" DATING THING EVEN BEFORE THEN

LONG STORY SHORT SHE WANTS SOMETHING NEW

WELL, SHE CERTAINLY GOT THAT!

Isn't making color comics just as easy as making greyscale comics?



WELL

NO

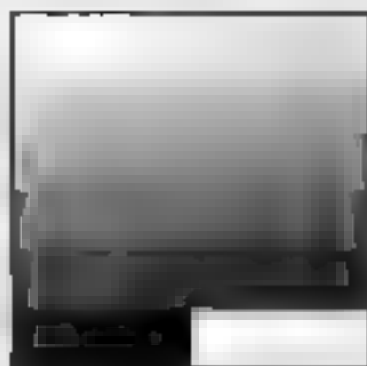
HOLY CARP WHAT



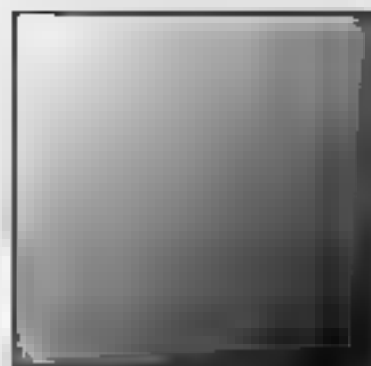
WHEN WORKING IN RGB* GREYSCALE, YOUR ONLY REAL CONCERNS ARE HOW LIGHT OR DARK, AND CONTRAST

YOU CAN GET A WORKING PALETTE BY SIMPLY TAKING 0 (BLACK) AND EACH NUMBER EVENLY DIVISIBLE BY 8 BETWEEN 8 AND 256 FOR A 33 "COLOR" PALETTE

WITH COLOR YOU'RE CONCERNED WITH HUE SATURATION AND BRIGHTNESS, AND THERE ARE OVER SIXTEEN AND A HALF MILLION POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS IN RGB.



* Red, Green, and Blue



* Imagine 16,777,216 colors

THE CHALLENGE IS NOT ONLY FINDING COLORS THAT LOOK GOOD, BUT LOOK GOOD TOGETHER.

GOOD COLOR COMPOSITION IS A CHALLENGE FAR BEYOND THAT OF "HOW BRIGHT SHOULD THIS GREY BE"



WHY ARE YOU WEARING A TISSUE?

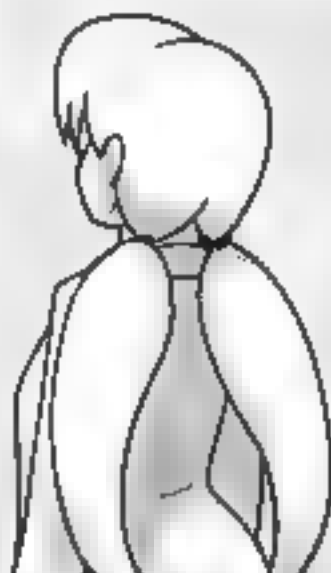
I DRANK THE WRONG KIND OF SHRINK SODA.

THE BEST KIND, YOU MEAN.



What pronouns do Dan prefer?

PRONOUNS?
FOR DAN?
WHAT?



YOU KNOW,
LIKE HE OR SHE
OR THEY

YEAH, BUT WHY
WOULD SOMEONE ASK
WHAT DAN PREFERS?



BETWEEN THE
FEMALE SQUIRREL
AVATAR, TEDD, AND THE
COMIC IN GENERAL?

POINT



DAN'S PREFERS "HE / HIM" UNLESS
REFERRING TO HIS FEMALE AVATAR.

HE'S NOT
BOTHERED BY
BEING CALLED
BY OTHER
PRONOUNS. BUT
AS HE PUTS IT



LITERALLY THE ONLY REASON I PREFER
HE / HIM IS BECAUSE IT RAISES FEWER
QUESTIONS FROM PEOPLE I HAVE NO
INTEREST IN TALKING TO. BEYOND THAT I'M
INDIFFERENT SO LONG AS SOMEONE WASN'T
DELIBERATELY TRYING TO BE INSULTING

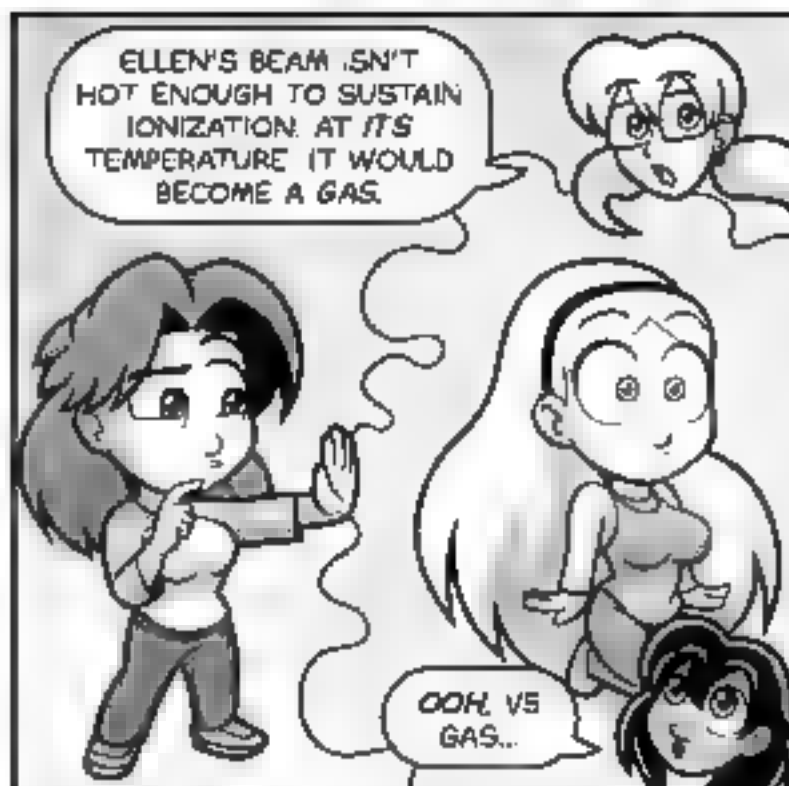


I GUESS
THAT CLEARS
UP HIS GENDER
IDENTITY

HE ACTUALLY GOES
ON TO DESCRIBE HIS
GENDER IDENTITY AS
"NON-COMMITTAL
SHRUG"



What is the maximum range of Ellen's zapping powers, and can her beams bounce off mirrors?



How common is transformation magic?

GENERALIZED AS A SINGLE CATEGORY IT IS THE MOST COMMON TYPE OF MAGIC!

OF COURSE IT IS. LOOK WHO'S WRITING THIS.

THAT'S NOT. WELL IT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON.

GIVEN DESIRE FOR STRENGTH. SOCIETAL STANDARDS FOR APPEARANCE. SPIRITUAL BELIEFS INVOLVING ANIMALS. GENDER IDENTITY ETCETERA.

THERE ARE A LOT OF REASONS SOME FORM OF TRANSFORMATION MAGIC WOULD BE REFLECTIVE OF SOMEONE.



AND FURRIES! DON'T FORGET FURRIES.

INCLUDED UNDER "ETCETERA"

ALSO PEOPLE WHO ARE INTO SIZE CHANGES!

ALSO UNDER "ETCETERA"

AND PEOPLE WHO...

LISA

Can Grace's shapeshifting and / or the TF gun make someone heal faster?

UGH, I'VE BEEN DREADING THIS QUESTION.

YOU ARE NOT GETTING FITTING VISUALS FOR THIS ONE

THE TF GUN IS DREADFUL FOR HEALING. INJURIES WILL REMAIN IN SOME FORM POST TRANSFORMATION, AND EVEN IF YOU COULD ZAP THEM AWAY, THEY'D COME BACK ONCE THE TRANSFORMATION WEARS OFF

AS FOR GRACE, SHE CAN RECOVER FROM INTJRY AT A RELATIVELY FAST RATE.

SHE CAN'T JUST MORPH AWAY INTJRY BUT SHE DOES HEAL MUCH FASTER THAN A REGULAR HUMAN.

THAT SA'D, GRACE WOULD STILL REQUIRE MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR MORE SERIOUS INTJRIES.

FOR EXAMPLE, BROKEN BONES WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE SET PROPERLY AND SHE COULD STILL REQUIRE STICHES.

BONUS FACT: ALL URYUOM AND URYUOM HYBRIDS HEAL FASTER THAN HUMANS, BUT GRACE IS FAST EVEN BY THEIR STANDARDS. THIS IS DUE TO GRACE BEING PART LESPUKO

FAST, FASTER... EXACTLY HOW MUCH FASTER?

ACCORDING TO MY NOTES? "INTENTIONALLY VAGUE" FASTER.

Was El Goonish Shive always supposed to be so weird?

THE VERY FIRST SERIES OF EGGS COMICS DAN EVER DREW WERE BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL WITH SARAH AND TEDD AS SCIENCE PROJECT PARTNERS.



IN IT TEDD INADVERTENTLY TRAPPED SARAH IN A POKEBALL FROM POKEMON AND MADE HER PART PIKACHU



TEDD DID MANAGE TO RESTORE SARAH TO MOSTLY NORMAL, BUT SARAH WAS LEFT WITH A MONKEY-LIKE TAIL THAT SHE OPTED TO PERMANENTLY KEEP.



THE NEXT STORY DAN DREW WAS AN EARLY VERSION OF THE GOO STORYLINE WITH ONLY MINOR DIFFERENCES.



SO THE ANSWER IS YES, BUT DAN WAS NERVOUS ABOUT INCLUDING GENDER TRANSFORMATIONS. THEY WERE ALWAYS SOMETHING HE WANTED TO INCLUDE BUT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT HOW PEOPLE WOULD REACT

HE WAS EXTREMELY NERVOUS ABOUT THE FIRST SISTER STORYLINE BECAUSE OF THIS, AND OVER-COMPENSATED WITH HOW CHARACTERS REACTED TO THE SITUATION.



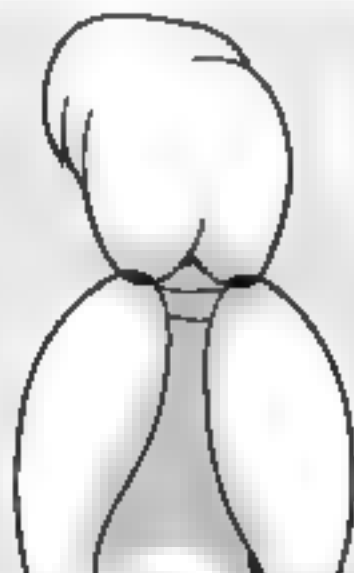
ANOTHER FUN FACT: AMANDA PREDATES EGGS BY SEVERAL YEARS.

WHICH MIGHT EXPLAIN A THING OR TWO ABOUT MY HAIRSTYLE PREFERENCES.



Is Grace any more predisposed to polyamory due to her uryuom heritage?

WELL, *THIS* QUESTION IS A POWDER KEG.



POLYAMORY IS BASICALLY BEING IN, OR WANTING, AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP INVOLVING MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE.

AND NO I DON'T MEAN ONE PERSON HAVING TWO SEPARATE PARTNERS I MEAN THREE OR MORE PEOPLE ALL IN ONE RELATIONSHIP TOGETHER.

APOLOGIES TO EVERYONE WHO KNOWS THIS (AND KNOWS IT BETTER) ALREADY



GRACE BEING PART URYUOM IS RELEVANT BECAUSE URYUOMS REPRODUCE IN SUCH A WAY THAT THREE OR MORE PARENTS RAISING CHILDREN TOGETHER IS FAR MORE THE NORM THAN ONE OR TWO.



BUT DOES THIS MEAN GRACE IS MORE PREDISPOSED TO POLYAMORY? GREATER SEYUNOLUS (URYUOM HYBRIDS) ARE STATISTICALLY MORE LIKELY TO BE POLYAMOROUS, BUT THEY'RE ALSO STATISTICALLY MORE LIKELY TO FALL IN TO THE ASEXUAL SPECTRUM, AND NEITHER OF THOSE FACTS PROVE ANYTHING ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ABOUT GRACE AS AN INDIVIDUAL.



SHORT ANSWER: GREATER SEYUNOLUS IN GENERAL ARE MORE PREDISPOSED TO POLYAMOROUS RELATIONSHIPS, BUT THAT DOESN'T GUARANTEE GRACE IS.

THAT'S WHAT I JUST SAID.



We actually just want to know if a relationship between Grace, Tedd, and Sarah could happen.

OH UH...



OUT OF PANELS BYE!

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY APPROXIMATELY SEVEN BILLION PEOPLE THAT WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS THE CORRECT DEFINITION OF POLYAMORY WAS INCORRECT

IT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED TO US THAT WAY, IT STILL SEEMED RIGHT WHEN WE DOUBLE CHECKED THE DEFINITION, AND WE THOUGHT WE UNDERSTOOD BUT WE DIDN'T



WHICH IS, OF COURSE 100% KEVIN'S FAULT

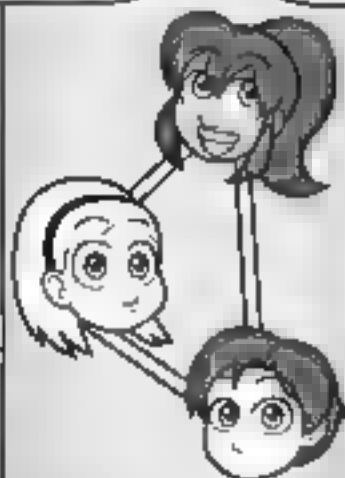
WHO IS--



THE RESEARCHER WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE WHO CLEARLY EXISTS AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING WE GET WRONG.

ANYWAY OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT POLYAMORY APPLIES TO SOMEONE WHO IS IN OR WANTS TO BE IN RESPONSIBLE NON-MONOGAMOUS RELATIONSHIPS IN WHICH EVERYONE INVOLVED KNOWS WHAT'S UP AND NOBODY IS CHEATING ON ANYONE.

BOTH EXAMPLES IN PANEL TWO OF THE LAST COMIC WOULD BE POLYAMOROUS SO LONG AS EVERYONE KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON, AS WOULD MANY OTHER NON-MONOGAMOUS RELATIONSHIP CONFIGURATIONS.



SO NEUTRAL GOOD NON-MONOGAMY?



I GUESS THAT'S ONE WAY TO PUT IT?



ANYWAY THAT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING BASED ON THE FEEDBACK WE RECEIVED. WE RECEIVED A LOT OF DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS BUT THEY SEEMED TO BOIL DOWN TO NON-MONOGAMY AND EVERY ONE BEING HONEST WITH EVERYONE ABOUT IT

WE'RE 99.99% CERTAIN WE'VE GOT IT RIGHT THIS TIME BUT WE REMAIN NERVOUS AND AFRAID



THIS DOESN'T REALLY CHANGE THE GENERAL ANSWER GIVEN IN THE PREVIOUS COMIC, BUT THAT INACCURACY WAS IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS

ALSO WE'RE ONCE AGAIN OUT OF PANELS FOR TALKING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TEDD, GRACE, AND SARAH GETTING TOGETHER.



Could Grace awaken and learn magic?

YES

YAY!

BUT IT
WOULD BE EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT TO DO.

LESS
YAY?

GRACE HAS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO CALL
URYUOM POWER. URYUOM POWER IS GREAT
FOR ALL THE SHAPESHIFTY THINGS GRACE
CAN DO. BUT TO CAST **SPELLS**, SHE WOULD
NEED TO BUILD UP **MAGIC POWER**.

WOO SALL
NOP PAPH

THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS PEOPLE CAN DO TO
BUILD UP THEIR **MAGIC POWER**. BUT THE PROBLEM
FOR GRACE IS THAT SHE'D NATURALLY USE
URYUOM POWER WHEN DOING THOSE THINGS.
SHE COULD WORK FIVE TIMES AS HARD WITHOUT
EVER INCREASING HER **MAGIC POWER**.

+OKP

GRACE WOULD NEED TO LEARN TO
SUPPRESS HER **URYUOM POWER** (A FEAT IN
AND OF ITSELF). AND THEN BUILD UP HER
MAGIC POWER WHILE SUPPRESSING HER **URYUOM**
POWER. ON TOP OF THAT, SHE'D HAVE TO
TRAIN **MUCH MORE** THAN AN AVERAGE PERSON
WOULD TO BUILD UP **MAGIC POWER**.

AS THOUGH
GRACE NEEDS
SPELLS.

YEAH, THIS INFORMATION
PROBABLY ISN'T RELEVANT
TO ANYTHING IMPORTANT

What book series has Dan read?

OKAY I KNOW WE DID THE PRONOUN QUESTION, BUT HOW IS THIS A COMIC QUESTION?

MANY PEOPLE ASK ABOUT REFERENCES AND INSPIRATIONS AND STUFF SO THIS IS WORTH CLARIFYING

YEAH SURE LEMME GUESS: HE'S READ A WHOLE LOT OF NERDY STUFF

DAN HAS READ THE HARRY POTTER SERIES ABOUT A WIZARD NAMED HARRY

AND DAN HAS READ THE DRESDEN FILES SERIES ABOUT A WIZARD NAMED HARRY -

AND THAT'S IT

HE'S EXCLUSIVELY READ BOOK SERIES STARRING WIZARDS NAMED HARRY?!

HE LISTENED TO PART OF THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY AUDIOBOOK ONCE

FOR THE LOVE OF LITERATURE, SUGGEST SOME BOOK SERIES!

Why hasn't (insert thing set up in Squirrel Prophet here) happened yet?

BECAUSE IT'S LITERALLY ONLY BEEN ONE DAY SINCE THAT HAPPENED.

SQUIRREL PROPHET ENDED ON FEBRUARY 13. OF 2015.

THEIR TIME COMIC TIMELINE WISE IT WAS YESTERDAY

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY TWO COMICS AGO!

STILL JUST ONE DAY

THE MAJORITY OF THE CARD TOURNAMENT STORYLINE TOOK PLACE ON A FRIDAY NIGHT ELLIOT'S DATE WITH ASHLEY WAS ON THE VERY NEXT NIGHT

THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY TIME FOR ANYONE TO GO ON ANY DATES OR NOT DATES YET



Friday



Saturday

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY TWO.

YES, WELL, BOTH OF THE PREVIOUS ARCS WENT ON WAY LONGER THAN EXPECTED THAT'S WHY A LOT MORE PLANNING IS GOING IN TO THE NEXT ONE

THAT'S THE ENTIRE REASON THIS Q&A IS STILL GOING. ISN'T IT?

WELL, THAT AND ANSWERING VERY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS LIKE THIS ONE.

Which *EGS:NP* storylines are certain to be canon?



Greg is a super strong anime martial arts master cool guy, but has he awakened?

HE... HM.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HM"?

I MEAN "HM" I DON'T KNOW! LOOK AT THE FACTS.

GREG IS VERY POWERFUL, AND HAS A NUMBER OF SUPERNATURAL "ANIME" MARTIAL ARTS ABILITIES, ANY ONE OF WHICH COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO SIMPLY "DREAMING" LIKE ELIJOT AND JUSTIN USED TO BE

THING IS, HE HAS A LOT OF THESE ABILITIES. MORE THAN SOMEONE WHO HASN'T AWAKENED IS LIKELY TO HAVE



ONE COULD HYPOTHESIZE HE JUST GETS MORE ABILITIES THROUGH HIS UNIQUE STYLE OF MARTIAL ARTS. BUT ONE COULD JUST AS FAIRLY HYPOTHESIZE HE GETS MORE BECAUSE HE'S AWAKENED. AND COOL MARTIAL ARTS POWERS ARE A REFLECTION OF WHO HE IS.

SHOULD WE THROW A SPELL BOOK AT HIM? WOULD THAT ANSWER THE QUESTION?

IT'S FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK THAT



Where the heck do the spell books come from, and how do they work?



Who is the muffin man?

THE
CARP?

I. WHAT?

IS THERE A
MUFFIN MAN IN
THE COMIC?

I DON'T THINK
THERE'S A MUFFIN
MAN IN THE COMIC.
WAS THERE EVER A
MUFFIN MAN?

I THINK I
WOULD REMEMBER
A MUFFIN MAN.

WOULD THIS
MUFFIN MAN MAKE
MUFFINS, OR BE
MADE OF MUFFINS?

WHAT LIKE A
"STAY PUFT
MUFFIN MAN"

THAT SEEMS LIKE IT
WOULD HAVE EVEN A
HARDER TIME STAYING
TOGETHER THAN
MARSHMALLOWS.

THIS IS A JOKE
QUESTION, ISN'T
IT? WE'RE OUT OF
REAL ONES.

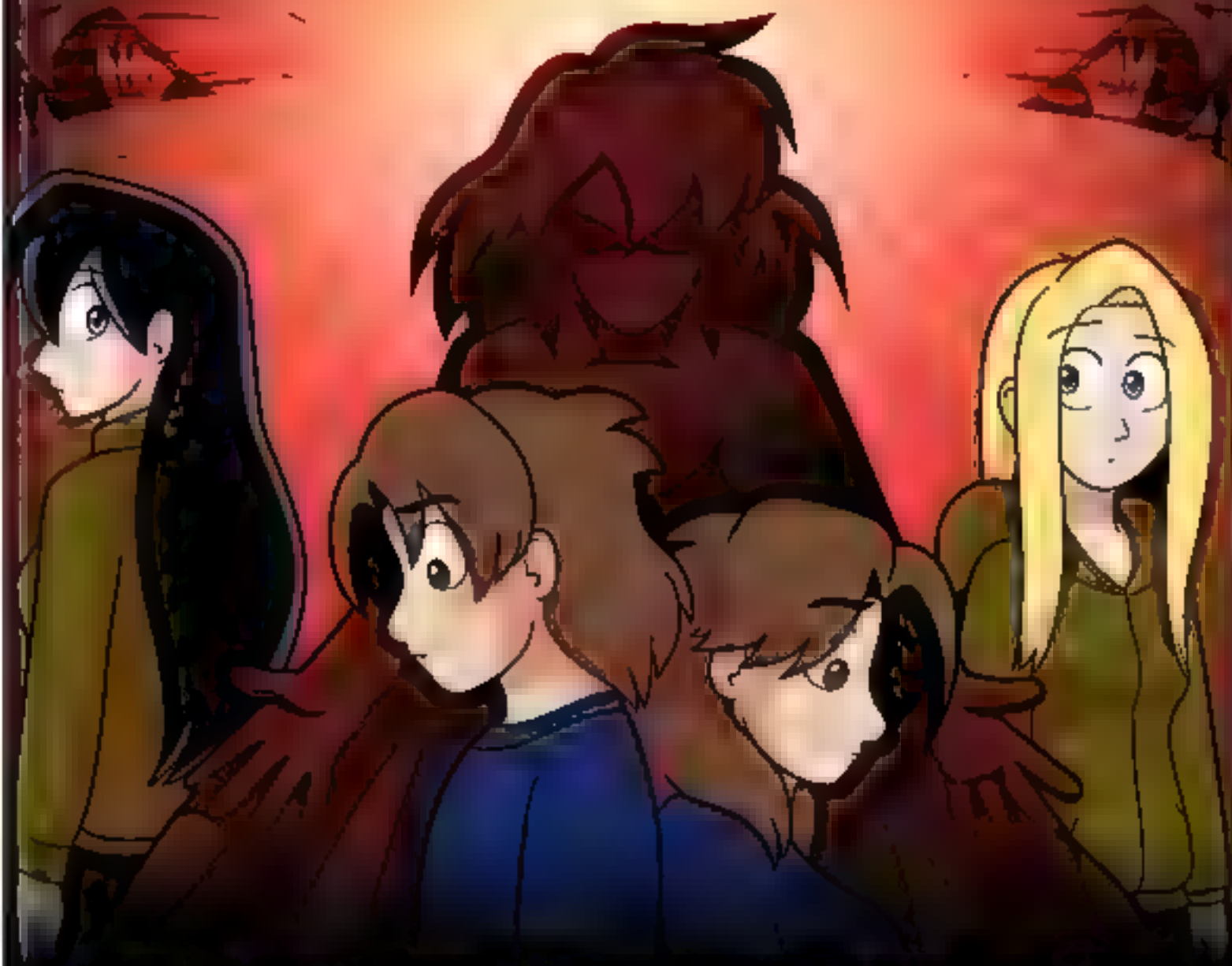
THAT'S
GOTTA BE
IT

OKAY THEN!
UP NEXT IS THE
NEXT STORY
ARC'S COVER!

THIS ONE'S
GETTING A
COVER, BECAUSE
REASONS.

UNTIL
NEXT
TIME!

SISTER !!!



CATSPAWS

Several centuries ago, there lived an immortal who would come to be known by many names, but was then most commonly known by the name she had chosen for herself: Pandora.



Pandora's favorite hobby was sharing secrets with mortals, most commonly with those who would purchase her secrets by performing strange tasks.

Most assumed these tasks part of some greater plan, but they consistently served no purpose other than Pandora's amusement.



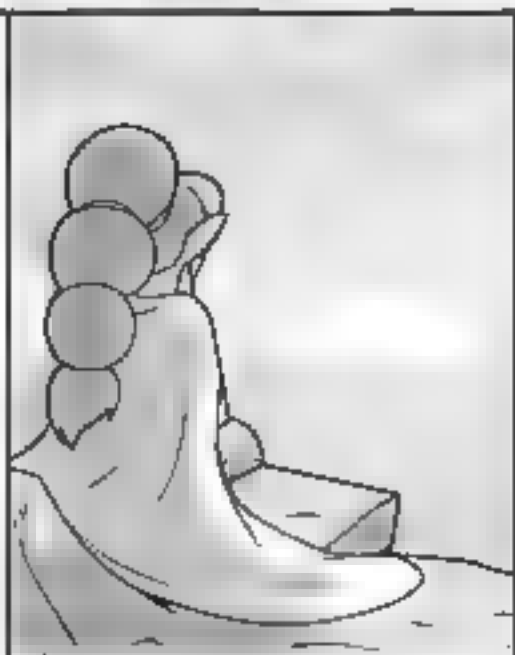
Pandora found comparing herself to the mythical woman whose curiosity inadvertently unleashed evil onto the world by opening a box amusing.



True, she felt her role was closer to the box's than the woman's, but even fewer people caught the reference when she tried answering to "box".

On the precipice of her one hundred and fiftieth birthday, however, Pandora found herself increasingly unsure of what she was to do with what was expected to be the final quarter of her life as Pandora.

As much as the world changed, people stayed much the same, and she was becoming a bit too capable of predicting the outcomes of her meddling in mortal affairs.

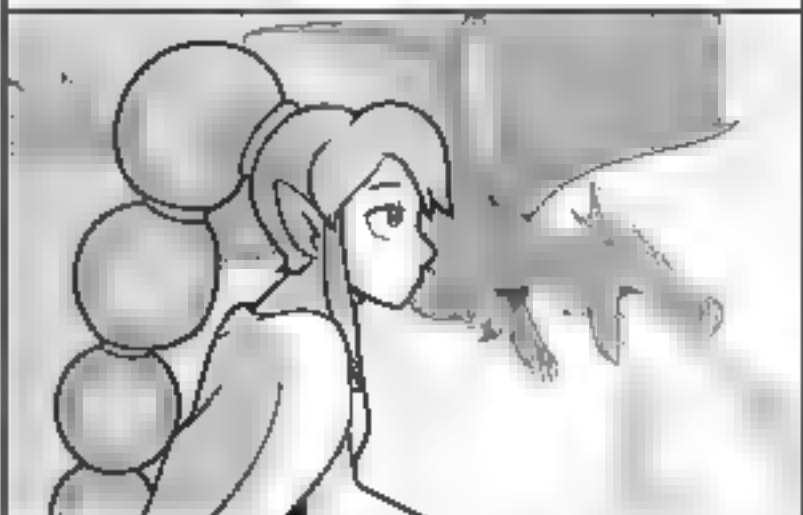


This was to be expected. Immortals gradually become more powerful and intelligent with age, and their memory is nearly flawless. The world becomes increasingly dull, and past a certain age, they become increasingly unstable.



This is why immortals usually reset their identities every two centuries, forgetting all but the most useful and important information that is passed on to the new identity as though having been read from an ancestor's memoirs.

Pandora found herself a ready yearning for the fresh start of a new identity, but she was only to be a mere one hundred and fifty years of age. It was too soon to feel that way.



And what was to be her legacy? What of the past one hundred and fifty years of frivolous playing with mortals was worth passing on to her next incarnation?

Pandora found her answer when next she meddled in the affairs of humanity. An adventurous explorer named Blake Raven was in search of ancient treasure, and Pandora appeared to offer important information about the treasure in exchange for her usual mischief.



Blake immediately declined, however, and did so with a smile.



Pandora emphasized that the information she had was very important, but Blake insisted he did not want it, and continued on his journey.



Pandora followed Blake. Initially, it was for the challenge. With each rejection of her offer, however, the challenge gave way to concern. She found herself growing fond of Blake, and the information she had really was very important.



That information being that there was no treasure.



And that there was a giant magic lion bear.



Blake narrowly escaped the wrath of the giant lion bear, and did so with the help of Pandora's freely given guidance.



For the first time in Pandora's life, she offered a sincere apology to a mortal. Blake laughed it off, telling her she tried to warn him, and that she'd saved his life besides.



Pandora asked why Blake had repeatedly refused her offer, and he told her that the treasure was never the point.

He wanted to find out the hard way. Not knowing was part of the adventure.



In that moment, Pandora saw herself in Blake, and felt a connection she had never felt before, not even among her own kind.



Pandora became Blake's adventure companion. Bound by the laws of immortals, there were limits to what she could do, and she limited herself further to mortal means of exploration and study. This suited Blake just fine, even if it did mean he was mostly on his own during monster and tavern fights.



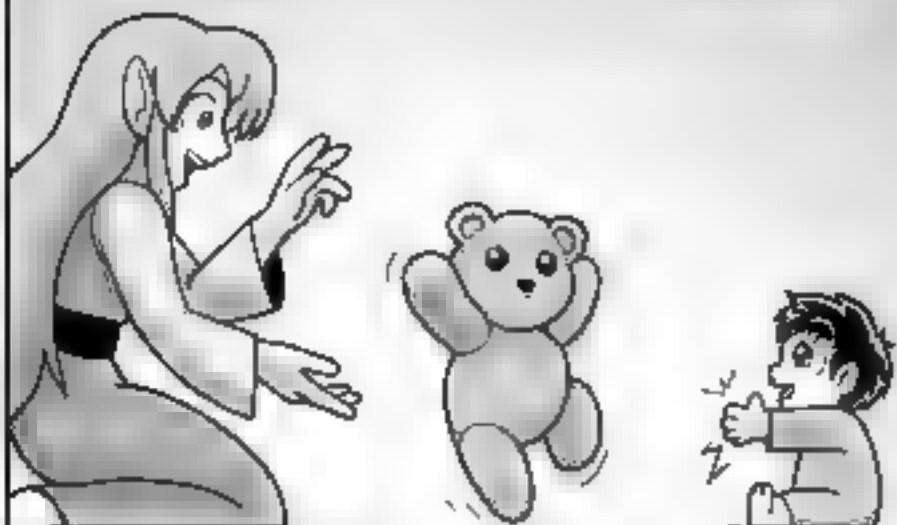
Over the years and adventures that followed, their fondness for one another grew. It was halfway through Pandora's one hundred and fifty-sixth year when their son, Adrian Raven, was born.



It was, is, and likely a ways shall be rare for an immortal and a mortal to have a child. Some would call Adrian a halfbreed Others, an elf, perhaps due to his pointed ears.



However he was described, he was Pandora's son, and she loved him. She loved him more than she ever knew she was capable, and for several years, things were better than they'd ever been for Pandora.



Though the thought of Blake growing old and dying had always troubled Pandora, she assured herself she was at peace with it. She had planned to reset her identity shortly after his passing, and she would pass on all the adventures the two had had.



She believed Adrian would not change that plan. It was likely Blake's passing would be around the time it would become necessary for her to reset anyway, and that some new version of her would return and be a part of Adrian's family.



Blake, however, did not live to see old age.

It was during Pandora's one hundred and sixty sixth year when Blake tried to save a group of travelers from a rampaging monster.



When Blake did not return home, Pandora went looking for him.

She found Blake's body next to the remains of those he had tried to save.



Pandora did not reset after Blaike's death. She would not abandon her ten year old son. She would not reduce the memory of her husband to a memoir to be read by some new version of herself who would only know it as trivia.

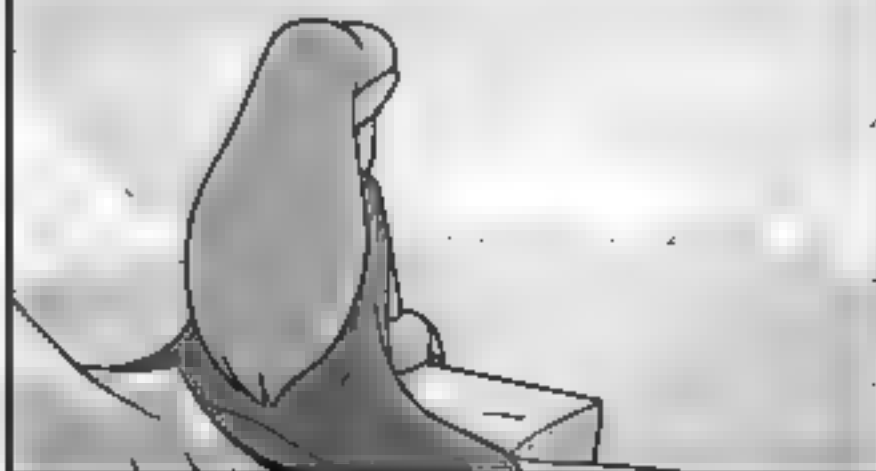


Pandora, though limited as she was by immortal law, was fiercely protective of Adrian. She protected him as best she could, which included raising Adrian to be as wise and powerful as he could possibly be.



For years, Pandora assured herself that she would reset her identity upon entering her two hundredth year.

She would do the responsible thing and not become more powerful and unstable with each passing year.



Pandora's two hundredth year came and went.

She did not reset. She did not consider resetting.



She would not forget her family.



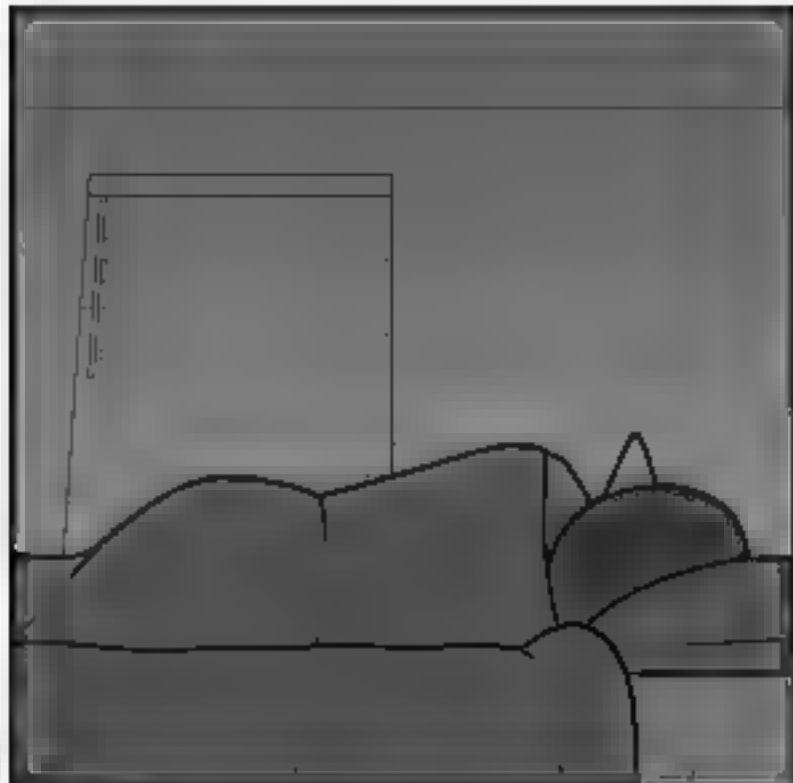
She would be there for her son however long he lived.



She would not let her love die.



The morning after Elliot and Ashley's first date.





WELL, THIS
IS AMONG
THE STUPIDEST
THINGS I'VE
EVER SEEN.



SLAM



YOU ARE
TRESPASSING IN
A MIND NOT YOUR
OWN, AND YOU
SHALL OBSERVE
NO MORE OF IT.



LEAVE
OF YOUR OWN
FREE WILL,
**OR I WILL
REMOVE
YOU.**

SO YOU'RE AN
INVITED GUEST IN
THE SQUIRREL'S
MIND THEN?



I AM AN EMISSARY
OF MAGIC ITSELF, HERE
BY ITS WILL. I TRESPASS
ONLY AS A NECESSARY EVIL,
FOR MUCH IS AT STAKE.



YOUR EXCUSE IS
MAGIC TOLD YOU TO?
IS THERE SOME NEW
CULT I HAVEN'T
HEARD ABOUT?



FUNNY, THE THINGS
IMMORTALS LET
THEMSELVES FORGET.

I DO NOT PRETEND
TO TRULY KNOW
WHAT DRIVES MAGIC,
BUT IT DOES
POSSESS A WILL, AND
I AM ITS EMISSARY.

LEAVE THIS MIND
IN PEACE, OR BE
REMOVED FROM IT.
FINAL WARNING.




AND WHAT DOES "THE
WILL OF MAGIC" TELL
YOU OF YOUR CHANCES
AGAINST ME?




PLEASE
LEAVE THIS MIND
IN PEACE.








LIKE FAMILY?
YOU CARE
ABOUT HER?



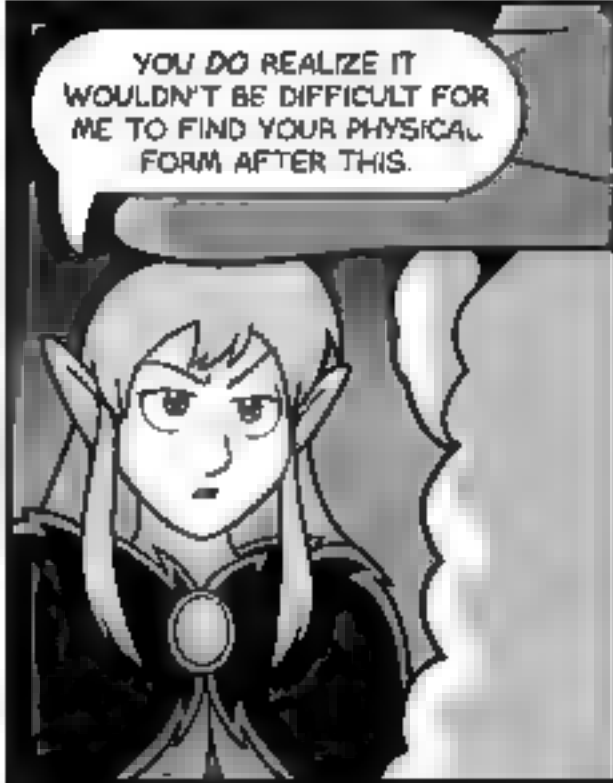
SHE'S PRACTICALLY
MARRIED TO MY GRAND
GODSON. WHAT'S MORE,
SHE'S GOOD FOR HIM.

NOW EXPLAIN
YOURSELF.




I SENSE NO
DECEPTION FROM YOU
A BIT OF INSTABILITY,
PERHAPS, BUT...


THERE ARE
MORTALS YOU
GENUINELY CARE
ABOUT...




YOU DO REALIZE IT
WOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT FOR
ME TO FIND YOUR PHYSICAL
FORM AFTER THIS.



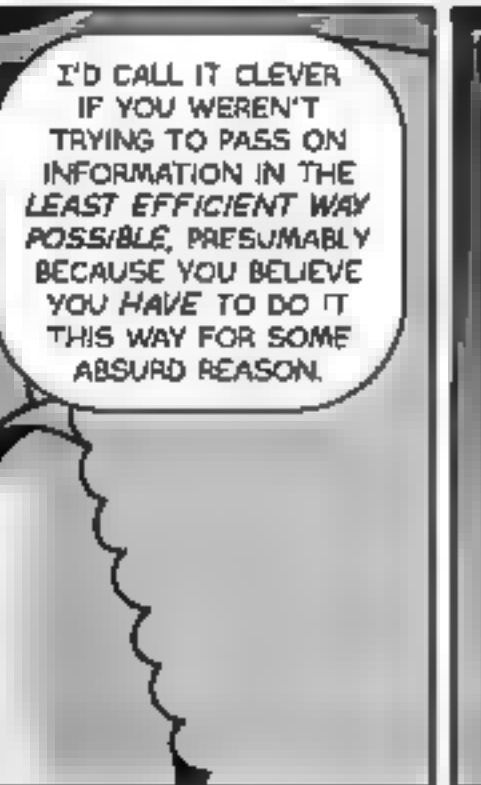
I APOLOGIZE
FOR THREATENING
YOU EARLIER.




I LET EMOTION CLOUD
MY JUDGEMENT, AND YOUR
PRESENCE HERE HAS THE
POTENTIAL TO--



YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL
GRACE SOMETHING. BUT SHE KEEPS
FORGETTING WHAT YOU'VE TOLD
HER. YOU'VE JUST REALIZED YOU
COULD ASK ME TO TELL HER.




I'D CALL IT CLEVER
IF YOU WEREN'T
TRYING TO PASS ON
INFORMATION IN THE
LEAST EFFICIENT WAY
POSSIBLE, PRESUMABLY
BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE
YOU HAVE TO DO IT
THIS WAY FOR SOME
ABSURD REASON.



...
SO THIS IS
HOW GRACE FELT
TALKING TO ME.


WOULD "THE WILL OF
MAGIC" SMITE YOU FOR
USING A PHONE?




I WAS GIVEN A SPELL FOR THIS TASK THAT DOES TWO THINGS.

FIRSTLY, IT ALLOWS ME TO ENTER GRACE'S DREAMS, AND ONLY GRACE'S DREAMS.

SECONDLY, IT ALLOWS ME TO REMEMBER WHO GRACE IS, DETAILS ABOUT HER AND OUR PAST MEETINGS, AND DETAILS ABOUT WHY I'M CONTACTING HER.




I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO GRACE IS WHEN I'M NOT USING THIS SPELL. I JUST KNOW THERE'S STILL A PROBLEM.



SO YOU KEEP USING THIS SPELL, EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE CONTACTING OR WHY?

I WANT TO SAY THAT'S ABSURD, BUT COMPARED TO WHAT GOES ON IN A LOT OF CULTS...?




WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT HOW MAGIC WORKS FOR HUMANS IS IN DANGER OF CHANGING.




MAGIC... CHANGING? WHY DOES THAT SOUND

EXPLAIN.




MAGIC WANTS TO BE KNOWN OF AND USED, BUT ONLY BY A RELATIVE FEW.



EVENTS IN THE PAST YEAR HAVE EXPOSED MAGIC TO THE PUBLIC, GIVEN DOZENS OF NEW PEOPLE ACCESS TO MAGIC...

AND FLOODED THE AREA AROUND MOPERVILLE WITH AMBIENT MAGIC POWER THAT ATTRACTS LITERAL MONSTERS TO THE AREA.



NOW PEOPLE WHO NEVER WOULD HAVE TAKEN MAGIC SERIOUSLY BEFORE ARE RESEARCHING IT, AND NOT EVERYTHING THEY'VE FOUND IS GIBBERISH.

MAGIC IS THIS CLOSE TO JUST CHANGING HOW MAGIC WORKS TO KEEP THAT RESEARCH FROM AMOUNTING TO ANYTHING.

FAMILIAR.. THIS ALL
SOUNDS.. FAMILIAR..



The warmongering horde could no longer throw balls of fire. They rode into battle with little weaponry, expecting to win the day with monstrous flame, but none came forth from their open palms. They were slaughtered by those who previously stood no chance against them.



The air felt strange, and something had clearly changed. It was difficult to pin down what, exactly, but the feeling was impossible to shake and the fate of the horde confirmed it.



WHAT
WAS...

MEMOIRS. FROM
MY PREVIOUS
SELF



YOUR PREVIOUS
SELF? BUT MAGIC
LAST CHANGER..

IF THINGS KEEP GOING AS
THEY ARE HUMANS COULD
POTENTIALLY LOSE ALL ACCESS
TO MAGIC UNTIL THEY FIGURE
OUT HOW IT WORKS AGAIN?



WORST CASE SCENARIO,
YES. THERE'S A RARE TYPE
OF WIZARD THAT WOULDN'T
BE AFFECTED, BUT ONLY
BECAUSE THEY DON'T GET
SPELLS IN THE FIRST--



DAMN IT DAMN IT DAMN IT!

**FINE! I'LL
FIX IT!**



YOU'LL FIX IT? YOU MEAN
YOU'LL PASS ON MY MESSAGE
TO GRACE, OR....?



GRACE?! WHAT'S SHE
GOING TO DO?! TELL ME TO
DO EVERYTHING I ALREADY
KNOW I HAVE TO DO?!



GRACE, I NEED YOU
TO TELL ME TO STOP
MARKING PEOPLE, AND
TO FIX THE AMBIENT
ENERGY PROBLEM.



DO THOSE THINGS.



YOU GOT
IT, GRACE!



YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO'S BEEN
MARKING
PEOPLE?!

BUT THAT WAS
SUPPOSED TO
HAVE BEEN DONE
BY A CHILD-LIKE
IMMORTAL!



IMMORTALS SHAPESHIFT,
YOU DUMB DUMMY!



YOU DON'T
KNOW IF SHE'S
ADOPTED?!

IF SHE IS. SHE'S NEVER
TOLD US. BUT WITH ALL
THE EVIDENCE THAT YOU
TWO ARE SISTERS, AND
YOU BEING ADOPTED...

SO IF SHE IS ADOPTED,
SHE MIGHT NOT EVEN
KNOW ABOUT IT?!

YES, BUT IT'S ALSO
POSSIBLE SHE'S JUST
NEVER MENTIONED IT
SHE'S A PRIVATE
PERSON.

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING
YOU JUST CASUALLY TELL
SOMEONE! I REMEMBER
WHEN I FOUND OUT RHEA
AND I WERE ADOPTED!

...WHEN YOU
FOUND OUT YOU
AND RHEA WERE
ADOPTED.

YEAH! IT WAS
A BIG DEAL!

Diane

Rhea

UH...
YOU REALLY
DIDN'T...

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW
ETHNICITY WORKED WHEN
I WAS SIX, OKAY?!

WHY WOULD YOU
LOOK LIKE A--

STUPID NO FAIR
ROTTEN STINKING
CHEATING MAGIC!

EVERYONE
COULD'VE HAD MAGIC,
BUT NO!

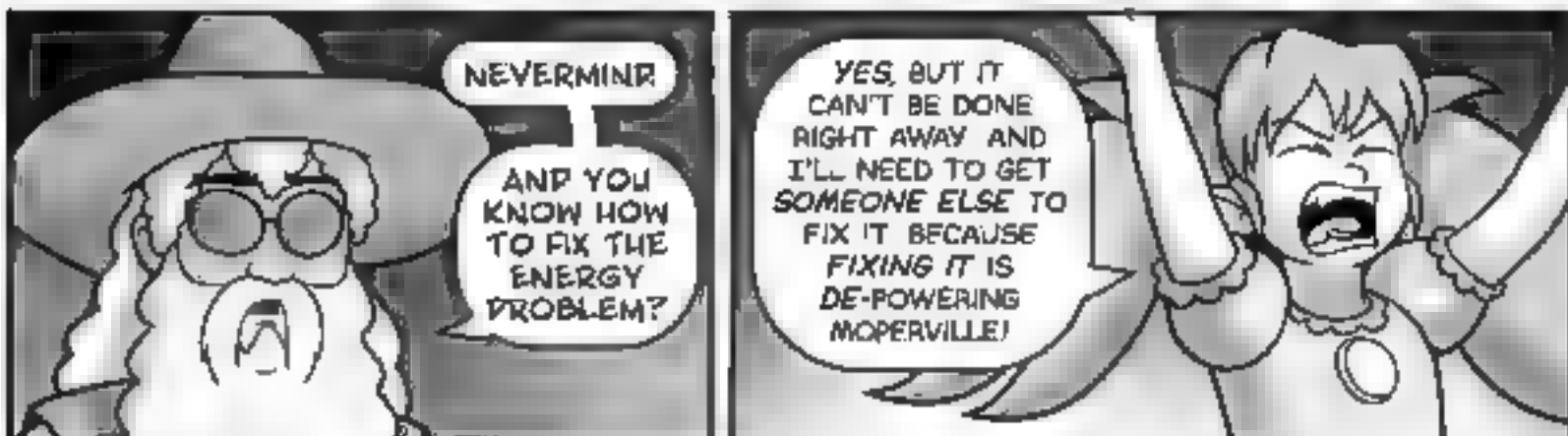
MAGIC HAS
TO BE A BUTT
FACE!



NEVERMIND

AND YOU
KNOW HOW
TO FIX THE
ENERGY
PROBLEM?

YES, BUT IT
CAN'T BE DONE
RIGHT AWAY AND
I'LL NEED TO GET
SOMEONE ELSE TO
FIX IT BECAUSE
FIXING IT IS
DE-POWERING
MOPERVILLE!



YOU NEED--
WAIT. DID YOU
CAUSE THE AMBIENT
ENERGY BUILDUP?

OBSOULESLY!

I'M NOT SURPRISED
YOU HAD SOMETHING
TO DO WITH IT, BUT...
ON YOUR OWN?
WITHOUT HELP?

I CAN
EMPOWER
AND GUIDE! I
EMPOWERED!
DUH!



AND ALL THE
OTHER IMMORTALS
WOULD ACCEPT
THAT EXCUSE?



IT'S NOT AN
EXCUSE! BESIDES, IT
DOESN'T MATTER
WHAT THEY THINK!



UNTIL THEY DECIDE
YOU'VE BROKEN THE
RULES AND DECLARE
WAR ON YOU.



THAT ISN'T...
ARRGH!

LOOK, NOBODY
ACTUALLY
"DECLARES WAR"
OKAY?



ALL THE OTHER
IMMORTALS JUST
AUTOMATICALLY
KNOW WHAT YOU
DID. WHY YOU DID
IT, AND EACH SENDS
A BIT OF ENERGY
AT YOU TO HELP
FORCE A RESET!

ANY IMMORTAL
WHO BREAKS
IMMORTAL LAW
HAS A MINUTE
TOPS, BEFORE
THEY RESET!

AUTOMATICALLY?
THERE'S NO DEBATE?
NO TRIAL?



THERE'S NO
NEED FOR ANY!
NO ONE WOULD'VE
AGREED TO THE
LAWS IF THEY COULD
BE TRICKED INTO
BREAKING THE LAWS.
OR BREAK THEM BY
ACCIDENT OR
WHATEVER!

THE ONLY WAY
TO BREAK IMMORTAL
LAW 'S TO BREAK IT
INTENTIONALLY!



SO... SO LONG AS
YOU DON'T THINK
YOU'RE BREAKING
IMMORTAL LAW...

THEN
I'M
NOT!





I DO NOT KNOW THE REASON FOR MAGIC'S OBJECT ON. I ONLY KNOW THE OBJECTION EXISTS.

AND YOU DIDN'T REALLY ANSWER MY QUESTION.

IT WOULD MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR MY SON TO LIVE IN.

ALL OF THIS WAS TO GIVE YOUR SON A BETTER FUTURE?

YES.

NOW THAT I CAN UNDERSTAND

YOU CAN GET SOMEONE TO FIX THE ENERGY PROBLEM?

IT WILL TAKE SOME PREPARATION, BUT YES.

GOOD THAT MIGHT PREVENT PEOPLE FROM CONFIRMING THEORIES ABOUT MAGIC.

MAGIC CAN HANDLE GREATER AWARENESS FOR A WHILE IF PEOPLE CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE IT.

THOUGH I'M NOT SURE IF MAGIC HASN'T ALREADY MADE UP ITS MIND.

IT MIGHT ALREADY BE TOO LATE?

I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW. LAST NIGHT CERTAINLY DIDN'T HELP MATTERS.

LAST NIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?



I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T KNOW.

I WAS BUSY LAST NIGHT! AND I NAPPED A FEW TIMES! WHAT HAPPENED?!



I MOSTLY KNOW WHAT WAS ON THE NEWS, BUT THERE WAS A GRIFFIN WHO HAD BEEN TRICKED BY AN IMMORTAL INTO ATTACKING WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN ACTUAL SUPER HERO NAMED CHEERLEAPRA.

THAT'S TEDO'S-- IS SHE OKAY?!



THE GRIFFIN WAS TALKED DOWN WITH THE HELP OF A FRIEND OF CHEERLEAPRA AND A PAIR OF OTHER IMMORTALS. THE IMMORTAL WHO TRICKED THE GRIFFIN LEFT WHEN THEIR LIES WERE EXPOSED, BUT NOT BEFORE CALLING CHEERLEAPRA "ELLIOT PUNKEL".



I'D TELL YOU MORE, BUT I DON'T HAVE SPECIAL INSIGHT ON THAT SITUATION. I LITERALLY JUST WATCHED THE NEWS ABOUT IT.

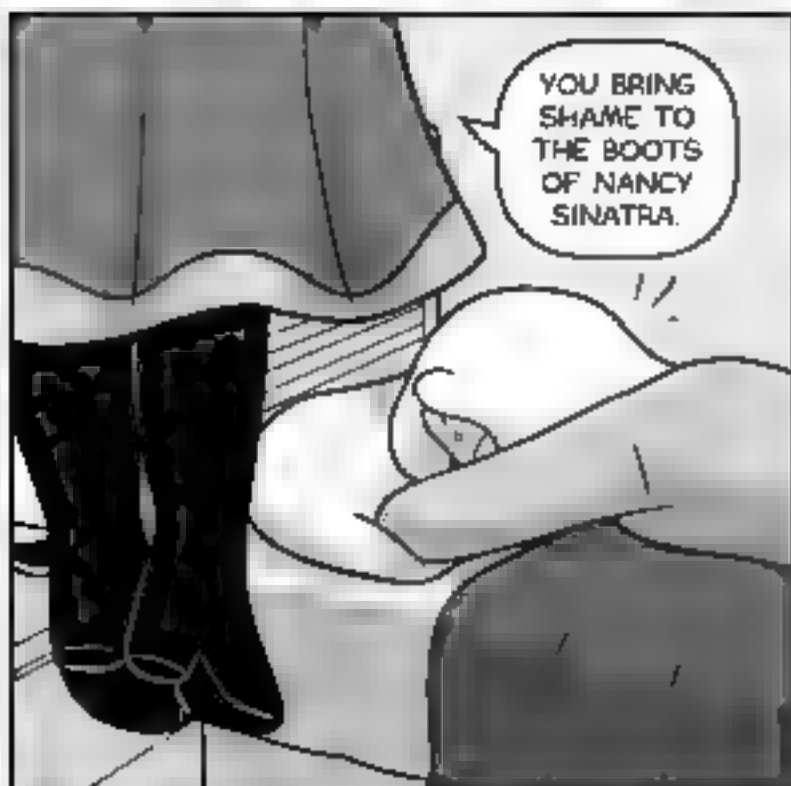
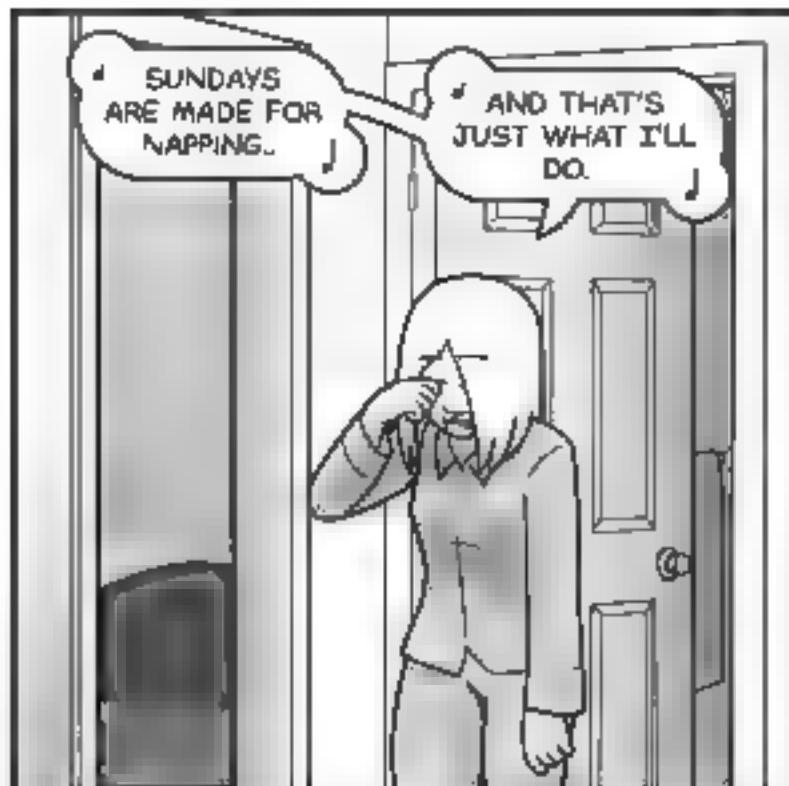
THAT'S... FINE. I'LL NEED TO LOOK INTO THIS MYSELF ANYWAY



I'LL LEARN WHAT HAPPENED FIND OUT WHO THIS MEDDLING IMMORTAL IS...



AND I WILL TEAR THEM TO SHREDS.



THAT'S...
ALLOWED?

THOSE LAWS PROTECT
MORTALS ON THE PHYSICAL
PLANE. WITH *EVERYTHING*
ELSE, I CAN BE VERY
DIRECT.

IS THERE
ANYTHING *ELSE*
YOU SHOULD
TELL ME?

I DON'T BELIEVE
SO. I'M PRETTY
SURE GRACE IS
ABOUT TO STOP
DREAMING,
ANYWAY.

THEN WE'RE DONE HERE! YOU
TELL MAGIC I'M FIXING THE
ENERGY PROBLEM!

*DON'T LET IT
CHANGE BEFORE
THEN!*

THAT'S
NOT REALLY
MY CALL!

THIS WAS NEVER
ABOUT TALKING TO
GRACE, WAS IT.

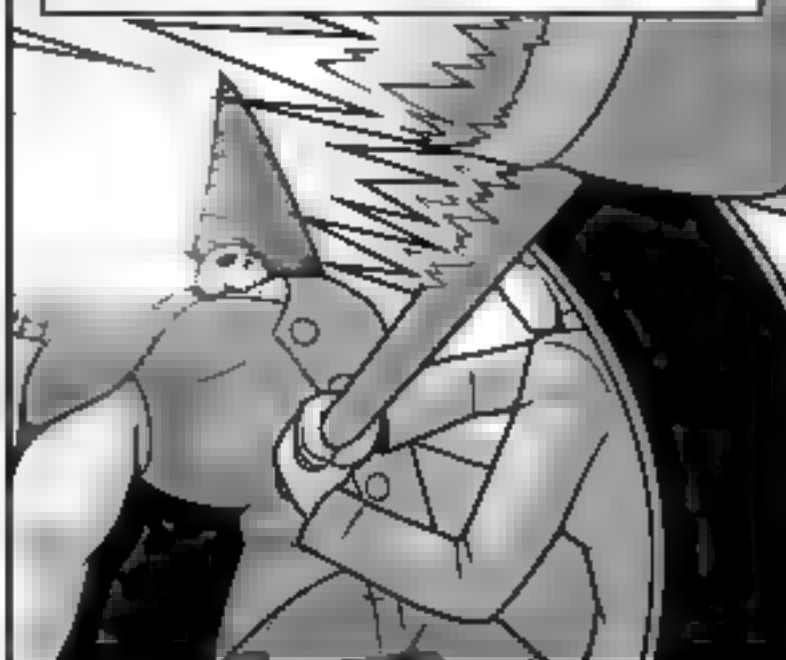
Susan and Diane. Two sides of one coin. Nearly identical appearance, voice, and intellect.



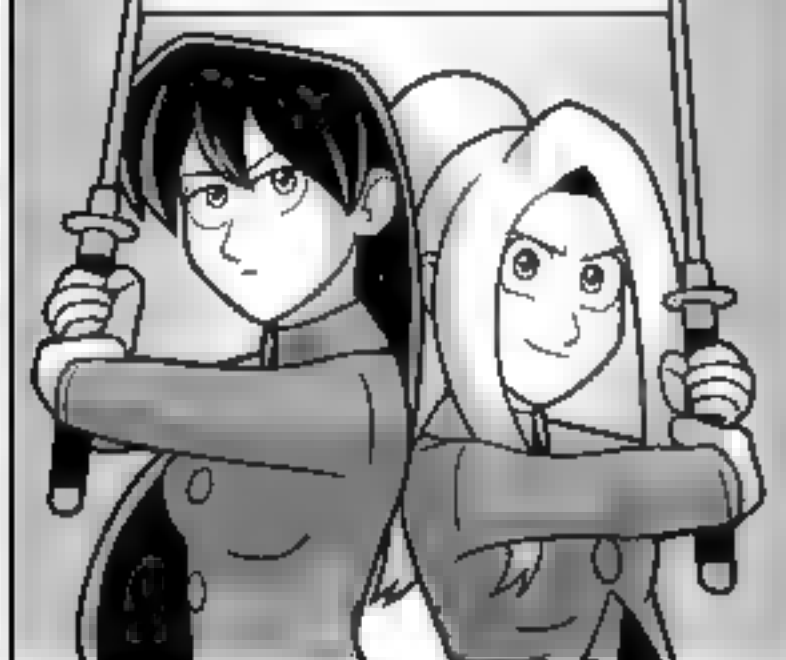
One born ten minutes before a new year, one ten minutes after, and both born with an affinity for summoning weapons made of magic.



The bane of aberrations (also known as vampires), magic weaponry harms them far more severely than those of normal make.



It may well be destiny that these twins combine their power to fight the evils of the



THEY'RE NOT TWINS.



WHAT

SUSAN'S AN ONLY CHILD AND SHE'S NOT ADOPTED. I'VE SEEN THE HOSPITAL RECORDS.

WHAT



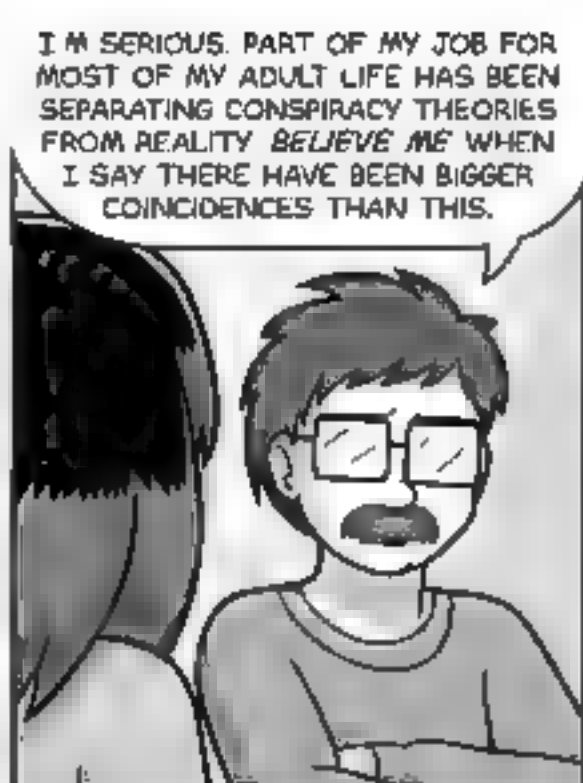
MY BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE THOROUGH!



HOW CAN THAT-- IT CAN'T BE COINCIDENCE! THEY HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON!

IT ABSOLUTELY CAN BE COINCIDENCE

OH COME ON.

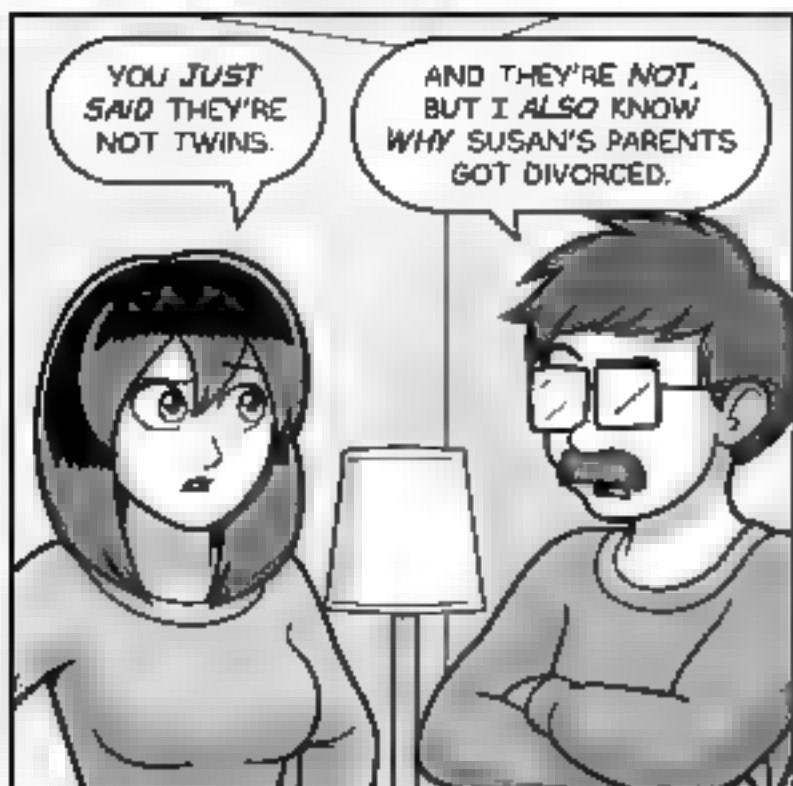


I'M SERIOUS. PART OF MY JOB FOR MOST OF MY ADULT LIFE HAS BEEN SEPARATING CONSPIRACY THEORIES FROM REALITY. BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THERE HAVE BEEN BIGGER COINCIDENCES THAN THIS.



NEARLY. IDENTICAL

WHICH IS NOT UNHEARD OF I'M NOT SAYING IT IS COINCIDENCE BUT IT'S WISE TO ACCEPT THAT IT COULD BE.



YOU JUST SAID THEY'RE NOT TWINS.

AND THEY'RE NOT, BUT I ALSO KNOW WHY SUSAN'S PARENTS GOT DIVORCED.



HER FATHER'S A CHEATING CHEATER WHO CHEATED. IF THE CHEATING GOES BACK FAR ENOUGH...



THEY COULD BE HALF-SISTERS...

I CAN'T CONFIRM IT ADOPTION RECORDS AREN'T EASY TO GET BUT IT IS A POSSIBILITY

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP PROTECT DIANE?

OTHER THAN TELLING THE RIGHT PEOPLE THAT THERE ARE VAMPIRES AFOOT? NOT REALLY IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I CAN GIVE HER A BODYGUARD.

BESIDES, UNLESS SHE GOES WANDERING AROUND IN ISOLATED PLACES AT NIGHT SHE'S IN NO MORE DANGER THAN EVERYONE ELSE

LESS, IN MOST CASES.

HER AFFINITY PUTS A TARGET ON HER BACK, AND SHE'S ALREADY BEEN ATTACKED ONCE! HOW IS SHE IN LESS DANGER?

VAMPIRES CAN'T JUST SENSE HER BY DEFAULT THE VAST MAJORITY WILL FIND SOME WAY TO DO IT, BUT *HOW* WILL VARY ONLY THE MOST SAVVY WILL BE ABLE TO TELL SHE'S NOT YET A THREAT TO THEM.

THE REST OF THEM WILL SEE HER AS MORE SHEEP DOG THAN LAMB. MOST WILL AVOID HER. AND HER SHEEP.

AS FOR HER HAVING BEEN ATTACKED ALREADY SEE PREVIOUS WARNING ABOUT "WANDERING AROUND IN ISOLATED PLACES"

SO SHE ONLY HAS TO WORRY ABOUT THE **STRONGEST** AND **DEADDEST** VAMPIRES.

NOT NECESSARILY THE **STRONGEST** JUST THE ONES UTILIZING THE BEST DETECTION METHODS.

SO ONLY THE MOST INTELLIGENT AND BEST WITH MAGIC.

YOU CAN MAKE ANYTHING SOUND BAD IF YOU SAY IT THE RIGHT WAY



THE MAGIC MARK IS A QUESTION MARK BUT THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN ANYTHING.

?

SUSAN'S VENUS SYMBOL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SPELL IT GAVE HER

STILL, SHE REQUESTED THAT THE IMMORTAL WHO MARKED ME MIGHT HAVE MEANT IT AS A CLUE

MAYBE MY SPELL CAN MAKE ME SUPER GOOD AT TRIVIA?

BOBA FETT OF STAR WARS WAS ORIGINALLY PLAYED BY THIS ACTOR!

WHO IS ADAM WEST?

!CHECK!

NOPE.

KNOW THE ANSWERS TO MATH PROBLEMS!

NOPE.

TURN INTO A GUY!

NOPE

FLY!

NOPE.

BIG MUSCULAR WEREWOLF MORPH!

RAWR!

NOPE

I GUESS THE NEXT LOGICAL THING TO TRY IS A SEXY VAMPIRE FORM. BUT I DON'T ACTUALLY LIKE VAMPIRES.

I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO BE ONE

PRETTY SURE TEDD'S DAD SAID ACTUAL UNDEADNESS ISN'T REAL

GRANTED. SUSAN'S ABILITY WASN'T SOMETHING SHE YEARNED FOR. IT WAS JUST A THING SHE WAS GENETICALLY READY FOR OR.. SOMETHING

MAYBE I COULD HAVE A DEEPLY HIDDEN VAMPI DEALIE THAT JERRY MISSED?

!KNOCK! !KNOCK!

SARAH?

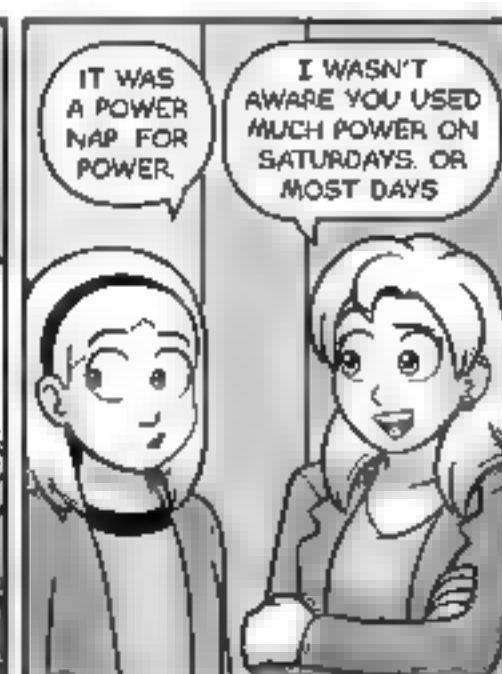
CAROL?!

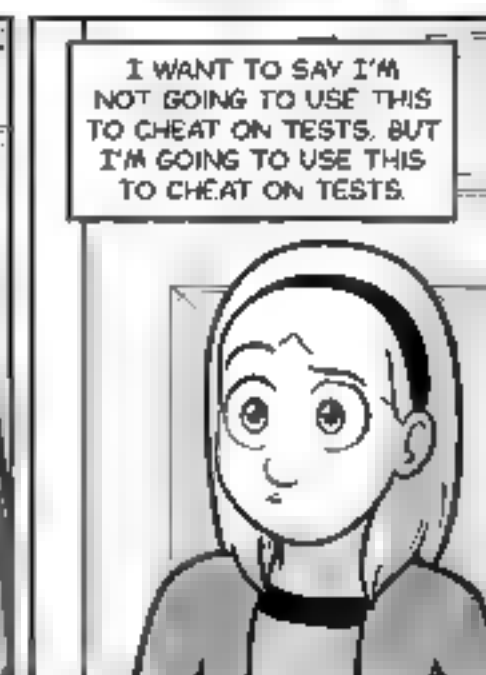
J-JUST A SEC!

DAMMIT! I FORGOT SHE WAS HAVING DINNER WITH US TONIGHT! HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN AT THIS?

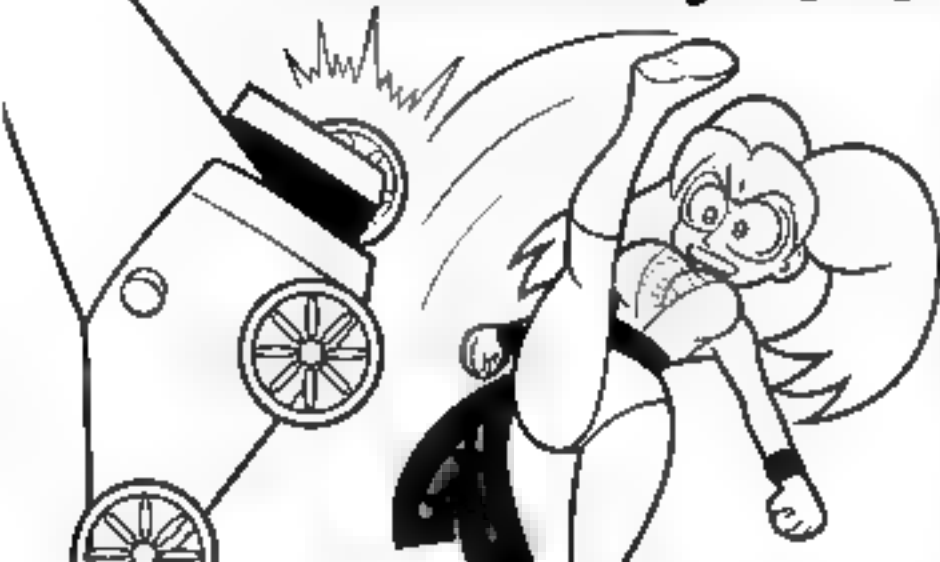
CAROL! HI! I WAS JUST UH..

CAROL?





NON-CANON NINJA KICK!



AMANDA HERE! SORRY TO INTERRUPT BUT DUE TO POPULAR CONFUSION, I'M HERE TO CLEAR UP WHAT SARAH'S SPELL DOES!



WAIT SO. IF THIS IS NON-CANON, DOES THAT MEAN YOUR EXPLANATION IS NON-CANON?

NOT HELPING, LISA



FIRST THE SPELL FROM SARAH'S PERSPECTIVE EVERYTHING BUT HER PAUSES IN THAT EXACT MOMENT AND SHE IS FREE TO EXPLORE THE FROZEN ENVIRONMENT AS THOUGH IT WERE REAL.*



* It's not It's all in Sarah's mind

THERE'S LIKELY A LIMIT TO HOW FAR SHE CAN EXPLORE BUT WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN SHE GETS THERE



AS SHOWN BY CAROL WEARING THE SAME OUTFIT IN REALITY AS SARAH SAW IN THE FIRST TIME FREEZE THIS TIME STOP SIMULATION IS ACCURATE

SARAH COULD FOR EXAMPLE OPEN A BOOK SHE'S NEVER READ BEFORE, AND READ IT



OF COURSE, HAD CAROL BEEN WEARING SOMETHING SARAH COULD NEVER HAVE PREDICTED (LIKE MAYBE A COOL NINJA OUTFIT) THIS ALL WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS.*



* Way to rub it in, Amanda

FROM ANOTHER PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE SARAH'S SIMPLY CLOSED HER EYES. SHE DOESN'T COMPLETELY FREEZE IN PLACE OR ANYTHING FANCY LIKE THAT AND SHE'LL KEEP HER BALANCE AND GRIP ON THINGS.



MEANWHILE SARAH EXPERIENCES THE SIMULATION AT AN ACCELERATED RATE HOW ACCELERATED MIGHT VARY DUE TO MANY FACTORS...

BUT SHE EXPERIENCES SEVERAL SECONDS FOR EVERY ACTUAL SECOND



THOSE FACTORS I MENTIONED CAN DEPEND ON HER FOCUS WHEN CASTING THE SPELL, ENERGY AVAILABILITY.



WELL, ASIDE FROM "SARAH DOESN'T HAVE TO TOUCH SOMEONE IN THE SIMULATION TO SWITCH BODIES WITH THEM" THAT SHOULD CLARIFY EVERYTHING SO FAR!



NINJA VANISH!

POOF



WHOOPS EH-HEH? THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO SHRINK US OUT OF VIEW

WHY DIDN'T WE JUST JUMP AWAY?

WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?







I... WASN'T EXACTLY PLANNING ON TELLING ANYONE OTHER THAN CLOSE FRIENDS.

I'M PRETTY SURE THEY WON'T TRY TO KILL ME FOR MAYBE LEARNING SECRET STUFF

OR COERCE YOU INTO FINDING OUT STUFF BEWARE OF THAT AS WELL.



AND YOU SHOULD TELL THEM. THEY'LL AT LEAST FIGURE OUT THAT YOU HAVE A MARK SOME WAY OR ANOTHER EVENTUALLY NOT TELLING THEM WOULD ONLY RESULT IN SUBPAR SITCOM HIJINKS.

THERE IS ONE YOU TRUST WITH SECRETS. HOWEVER, WHOM YOU MUST NOT TELL



TEDD'S FATHER EDWARD VERRES.

HE CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH YOUR SECRET



SERIOUSLY? YOU'RE TRYING TO CONVINCE ME THAT MR. VERRES WOULD HURT ME?



MR. VERRES HAS BEEN PROTECTING YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS FROM GOVERNMENT SCRUTINY BY WAY OF FULL DISCLOSURE

EVERY ABILITY YOUR FRIENDS HAVE ARE ON FILE SOMEWHERE. AND THOSE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE KEEP A CLOSER EYE ON THEM ARE SATISFIED



IF YOU TELL HIM, HE WILL EITHER BE IN THE POSITION OF WITHHOLDING SOMETHING THAT COULD GET HIM IN TROUBLE OR YOUR SPELL GOES ON FILE FOR ANYONE WITH THE CLEARANCE OR SKILLS, TO SEE IT



YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT OF COURSE BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE LAST PERSON HE FOUND WITH YOUR SPELL WAS STRONG-ARMED INTO GOVERNMENT WORK



...WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT WORK?

TOP SECRET SPOOKY STUFF WHATEVER



BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT! I NEED TO TELL YOU HOW YOU CAN ABUSE YOUR SPELL FOR ALL SORTS OF FRYOLOUS FUN!



YOU COULDN'T HAVE OPENED WITH THAT?

YOU'D RATHER HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE DANGER LAST?

...POINT



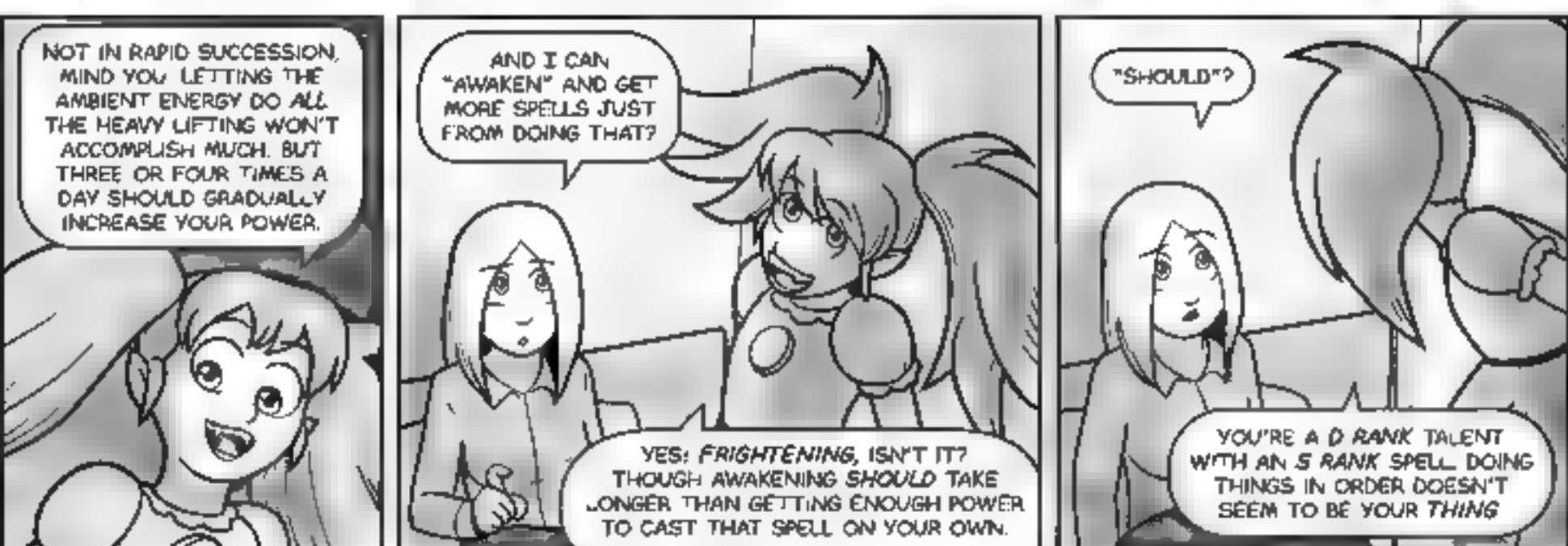
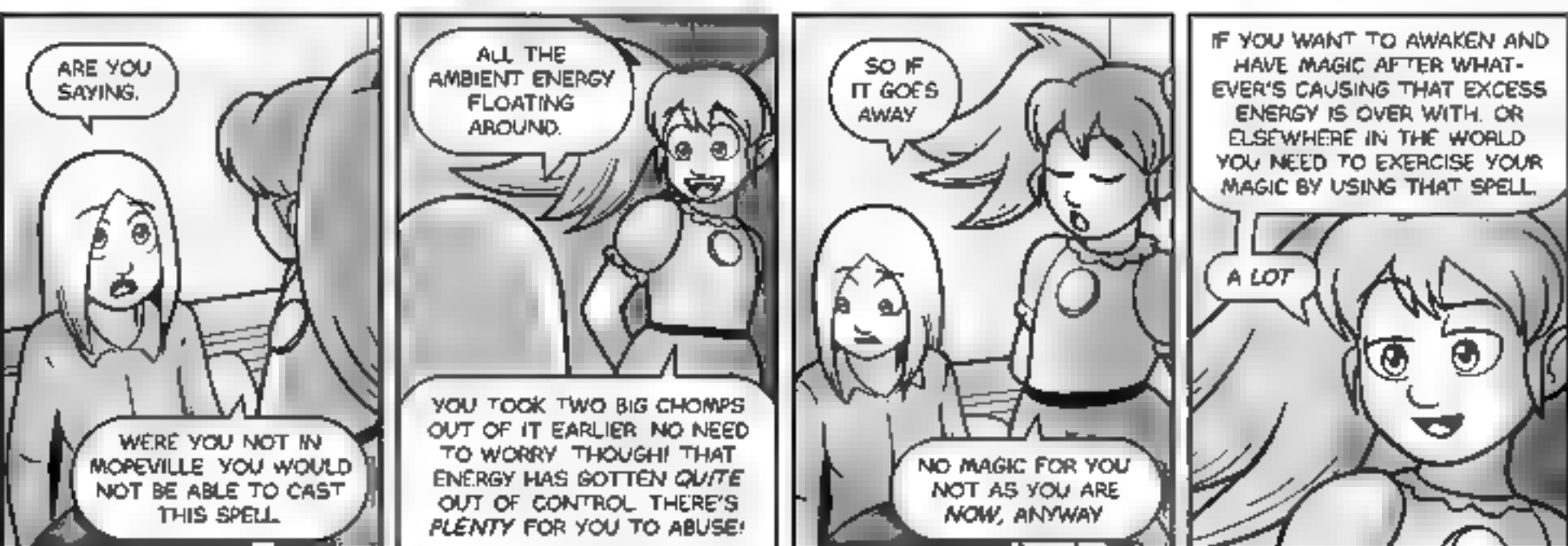
SIMPLY PUT YOUR "TIME STOP" ABILITY IS A MAGIC ILLUSION WITHIN YOUR MIND. AND YOU'RE IN CONTROL.



PRACTICE USING IT AND EVENTUALLY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND THE SIMULATION IN WAYS THAT IGNORE THE LAWS OF PHYSICS MAKE WHATEVER CHANGES YOU WANT TO THE SIMULATION. AND EVEN MAKE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU ACT OUT WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH AN ILLUSION OF AUTONOMY!



OF COURSE. ANY CHANGES YOU MAKE WILL DIMINISH THE ACCURACY OF A FROZEN MOMENT BUT IMAGINE THE FUN ONE MIGHT HAVE





SO I GUESS THE MARK'S A QUESTION MARK BECAUSE HOW I COULD USE THE SPELL TO INVESTIGATE STUFF? OR IMAGINE "WHAT IF" SCENARIOS?



ACTUALLY I ASSUMED IT WOULD TAKE A COUPLE DAYS FOR YOU TO USE THE SPELL AND THE QUESTION MARK WAS TO TROLL YOU



I PREDICTED YOU WOULD UNDRESS AT SOME POINT IN YOUR TESTS BUT EVEN I COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN IT WOULD BE PERFECTLY TIMED WITH YOUR SISTER KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR.



YOU SAW THAT?

OH PLEASE

I'M HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD AND CAN OBSERVE EVERYTHING FROM ANOTHER LAYER OF REALITY. THINK OF ME LIKE A DOCTOR WHO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOUR HEALTH.



CENTURIES? DON'T IMMORTALS SORTA START LOSING IT AFTER TWO? AND BECOME STRONGER WITH AGE?

HOW OLD ARE YOU?



HOW OLD AM I?!

THAT IS A VERY RUDE THING TO ASK A LITTLE GIRL!



WHICH IS WHY I HAVE BEEN ANSWERING SUCH QUESTIONS WITH TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE FOR A FEW CENTURIES NOW



SO WAY MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED YEARS.

MEGA EEP



H-HOW OFTEN ARE YOU WATCHING US? ME AND MY FRIENDS?



WHenever it suits me. WHICH ISN'T ALL THE TIME

GIVEN WHO YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH HOWEVER, IT'S LIKELY YOU ALL ALSO HAVE THE INTEREST OF OTHER IMMORTALS.



REALLY? W-WELL, YOU'D KNOW IF WE DID RIGHT?

YOU'D HAVE SEEN THEM FROM YOUR, UM, LAYER OF REALITY?



NOT WITH ANY CERTAINTY NO. SO LONG AS WE ABIDE BY CERTAIN AGREEMENTS, WE ARE ONLY SEEN WHEN WE WISH TO BE SEEN.

EVEN BY OTHER IMMORTALS.



THAT'S. THERE COULD BE A BUNCH OF IMMORTALS ALL AROUND YOU. AND YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN SEE EACH OTHER?



ASSUMING WE'RE ALL SIMPLY OBSERVING? OF COURSE! IT DOES WONDERS FOR TERRITORIAL DISPUTES AND PREVENTING WAR AND WHATNOT



THE EXCEPTION BEING YOUNGER IMMORTALS. BEING UNDETECTABLE TO OTHERS ON THAT LAYER IS LIKE RIDING A BICYCLE YOU CAN JUST DO IT ONCE YOU KNOW HOW BUT YOU HAVE TO LEARN FIRST



AND THAT DOESN'T CARRY OVER WHEN YOU "RESET"?

HOW MANY BIKE RIDING BABIES DO YOU KNOW?



YAH! This story be **CANON**

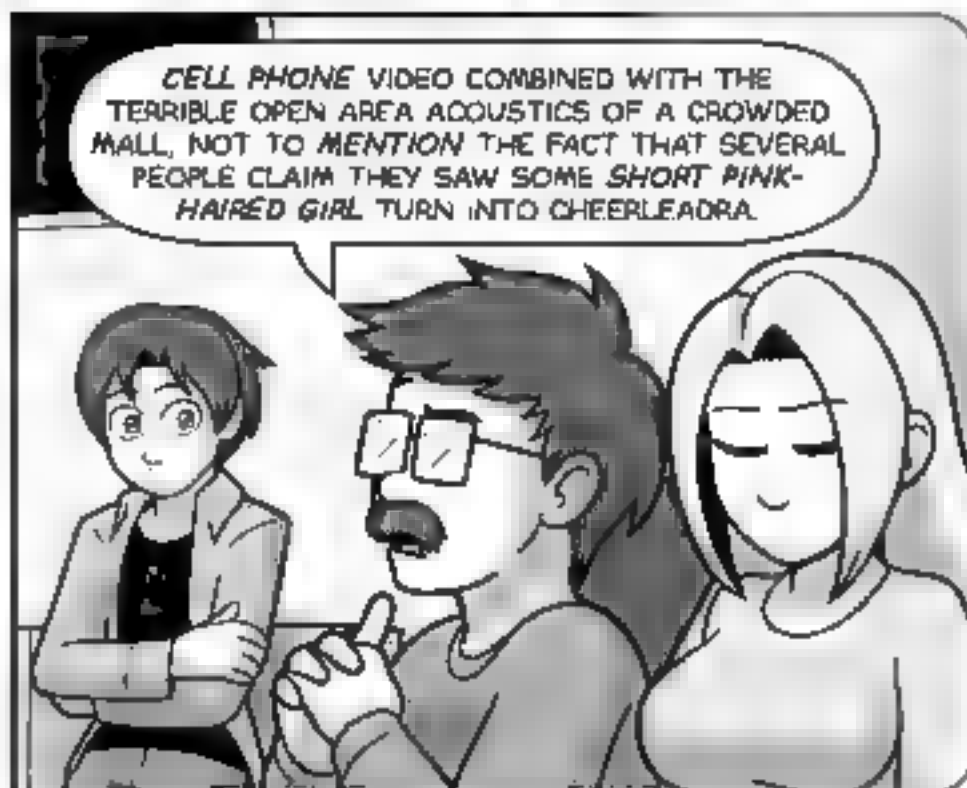
AND TAKES PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER

SQUIRREL PROPHET

LIKE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT
STORYLINE ENDED. IN BOLD ITALICS
AND EVERYTHING.

THIS STORYLINE PREMIERED IN THE
EGG-NIP SECTION (HENCE HOW IT LOOKS)
BUT IS ALSO HERE NOW BECAUSE OF
IMPORTANT PLOT-TYPE STUFF HUUZAH





THE SIMPLEST EXPLANATION, AND THE ONE PEOPLE WANT, IS THAT THE PINK-HAIRED GIRL IS ELLIOT DUNKEL.





AND BOTH PINK-HAIRED GIRL ELLIOT DUNKEL AND ME ELLIOT DUNKEL ARE FRIENDS WITH ASHLEY?



SEE THAT'S ACTUALLY EASY AND CONVENIENT ASHLEY MET "ROSE ELLIOT" BECAUSE SHE OVERHEARD HER NAME. "WHAT A COINCIDENCE I KNOW ANOTHER ELLIOT DUNKEL. LET US CHAT LIKE GIRLS DO"



SPOT ON.

"ROSE ELLIOT?"

AND ASHLEY JUST HAPPENS TO WIND UP HELPING CHEERLEADRA BECAUSE OF THAT?



BASED ON WHAT YOU'VE SAID OF HER, IT'S QUITE BELIEVABLE AND ALSO LENDS CREDENCE TO THE IDEA THAT SHE HAD ONLY JUST MET ROSE ELLIOT

KEEP IN MIND THAT WHATEVER EXPLANATION IS GIVEN ONLY HAS TO BE MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN THE "YOU ARE CHEERLEADRA" ALTERNATIVE. AND THAT THE GOAL ISN'T CONVINCING EVERYONE THIS IS MORE A MATTER OF CREATING REASONABLE DOUBT



ALSO I'M GOING TO MANUFACTURE A CHEERLEADRA SIGHTING SOMEWHERE WHILE YOU'RE IN CLASS AND SURROUNDED BY WITNESSES.

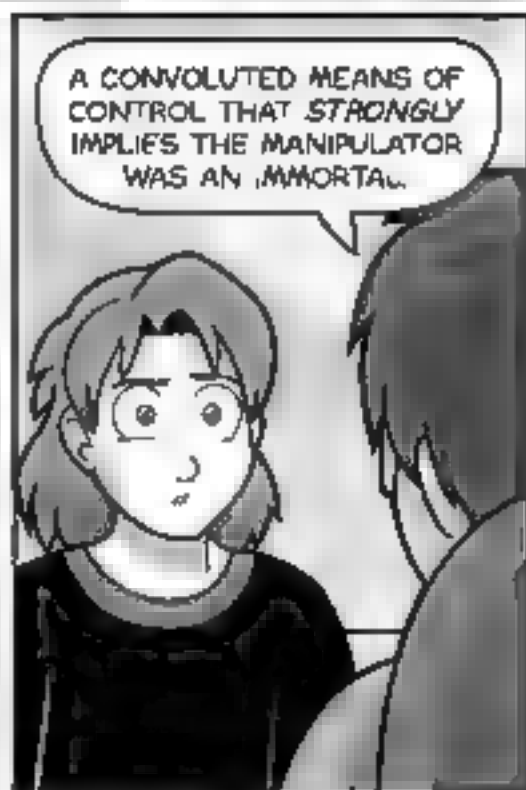
OBVIOUS SOLUTION, AND EVERYTHING'S FINE SO LONG AS ASHLEY CAN SELL THE "ONLY JUST MET HER" ANGLE.



YOU COULDN'T HAVE OPENED WITH THAT?!

WELL, YOU KEPT SAYING THINGS, AND I HAD ACTUALLY INTENDED TO POINT OUT THE MUCH BIGGER ISSUE

ALSO, YOU'RE WELCOME



BUT... THE FIRST GUY DIDN'T COME INTO THE SHOP AFTER ME AND DEX WAS *ALREADY* AT THE DOJO WHEN GRACE AND I SHOWED UP



THE DOJO IS SIMPLE IT WOULD BE EASY FOR AN IMMORTAL TO SPY ON ANY OF US AND KNOW WHERE WE WERE GOING TO BE

AS FOR THE COMIC SHOP WELL... I'M LESS CERTAIN. THAT MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU AT FIRST

YOU SHOWING UP AS CHEERLEADRA MIGHT BE WHAT FIRST GOT THEM INTERESTED IN YOU



THAT STILL DOESN'T...

THE DRAGON IS ALSO WORTH NOTING.



AS POWERFUL AS YOUR CHEERLEADRA FORM IS, BOTH GREG AND GRACE WERE ALSO AT THE DOJO

GREG *EASILY* DEFEATED FIRE PERSON AFTER FIRE PERSON AND THE IMMORTAL WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SENSE GRACE'S POWER.



BASED ON THE NUMBER OF FIRE PEOPLE SUMMONED, DEX *COULD* HAVE SUMMONED ANOTHER HEAVY HITTER. *INSTEAD*, HE STUCK WITH DISPOSABLE HENCHMEN.



THEY WERE TO KEEP THEM BUSY.. BECAUSE I WAS THE TARGET



DEALING WITH
AN IMMORTAL
STALKER LIKE THIS
IS DIFFICULT BUT
NOT IMPOSSIBLE I
HAVE A PLAN.



THAT WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY,
SIR EDWARD.



FOR THE RECORD
I CONSIDER THE
WHOLE OF MY EFFORTS
WITH DEXTER TO BE
ONE ATTEMPT





BEST OF TWO OUT OF THREE. BOY

IN SPITE OF YOUR COWARDICE AND INCOMPETENCE YOU HAVE BESTED ME TWICE



MORE ACCURATELY, SEVERAL OF YOUR ALLIES HAVE BESTED ME BUT WHAT MATTERS IS THAT I AM BORED OF YOU.

I TIP MY HAT TO YOU! WELL, THEM.



COWARDICE?!

ELLIOT--



I PUT MYSELF BETWEEN A DRAGON'S FIREBALL AND TRAFFIC. AND I FLEW RIGHT TOWARDS TARA WHEN I HEARD THERE WAS TROUBLE!

WHOM YOU THEN PROCEEDED TO RUN AWAY FROM LIKE A LITTLE GIRL

YOU RAN FROM HER TOO!



I CHOSE THE BETTER PART OF VALOR INSTEAD OF ALLOWING A BATTLE THAT WOULD HAVE LEVELED THE MALL AND EVERYONE IN IT QUITE A BIT DIFFERENT




YOU--

SIT DOWN.







AND THE LOOPHOLE?




YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT--
WAIT LOOPHOLE? WHAT LOOPHOLE?




THE "IT'S NOT AN ATTEMPT IF YOU SUCCEED" LOOPHOLE.




HOW IS THAT A LOOPHOLE? I'D HAVE TO ATTEMPT IT BEFORE I COULD SUCCEED AT IT




THERE'S "ATTEMPTED MURDER" AND THEN THERE'S "MURDER"




A SUCCESSFUL MURDER HAS TO BE "ATTEMPTED" IN THE FIRST PLACE



WE BOTH KNOW WHAT MATTERS HERE IS HOW YOU PERCEIVE THE MEANING.



ANY IMMORTAL WHO CONSIDERS THAT A LOOPHOLE HAS A SCREW LOOSE.



FOR ALL I KNOW YOUR SCREWS..

I VOW TO NOT DO ANYTHING WITH THE INTENT OF ELLIOT GETTING KILLED. OKAY? LEAVE MY SCREWS OUT OF THIS.

THAT'S GOOD. BUT IT STILL DOESN'T COVER EVERYTHING YOU COULD ACTUALLY DO TO ELLIOT THAT WOULDN'T STOP YOU FROM BREAKING HIS BONES.



O-OR
STEALING
HIS LUNCH!

AS A
NON-VIOLENT
EXAMPLE.



OR
TURNING
HIM INTO
A FISH!

A FISH?



YOU...
IDIOTS.

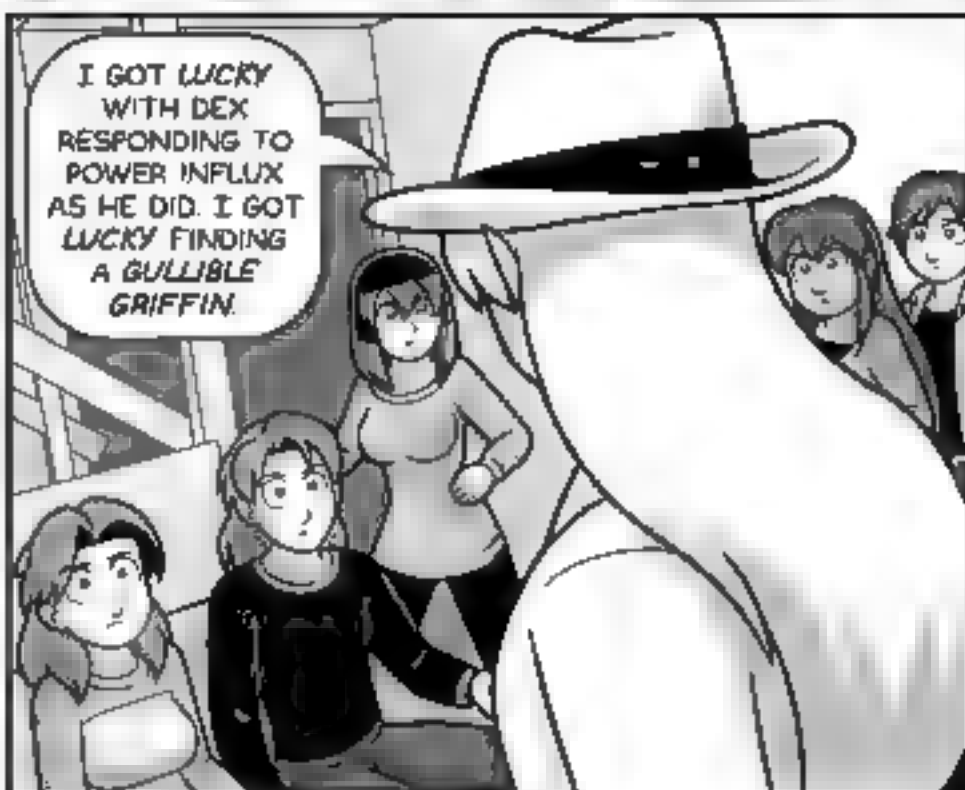


DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO GET SOMEONE TO DO ANYTHING FOR ME? DO YOU REALLY THINK I CAN JUST APPEAR BEFORE SOMEONE CONVENIENT AND GET THEM TO DO MY EXACT BIDDING?

ANY IDEA HOW RARE IT IS TO ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO OFFER SOMEONE SOMETHING THEY ACTUALLY WANT, OR TELL THEM SOMETHING THEY CAN'T JUST LOOK UP ONLINE?



I GOT LUCKY WITH DEX RESPONDING TO POWER INFLUX AS HE DID. I GOT LUCKY FINDING A GULLIBLE GRIFFIN.



YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY ELLIOT IS SAFE FROM ME?

IT'S BECAUSE IMMORTALS HAVE RESTRICTED OURSELVES INTO IMPOTENCE



I AM ONLY HERE AS A COURTESY
TO LET YOU KNOW THE GAME IS
OVER. MY VOW IS REDUNDANT IF
THAT'S NOT SATISFACTORY, THEN
ENJOY WORRYING OVER NOTHING.

GOOD
DAY TO
YOU



SHOULDN'T WE HAVE
ASKED HIM WHY HE
WAS AFTER ELLIOT?

NO BIG
MYSTERY
THERE
HE'S AN
IMMORTAL

THEY'VE
INCITED
WARS FOR
FUN.

IS HIS VOW
ACTUALLY WORTH
ANYTHING?

HE'S FREE TO BREAK IT,
BUT AT A COST TO HIMSELF
HE'S EFFECTIVELY INFLICTED
HIMSELF WITH A VERY
TARGETED FORM OF
SEVERE OCD.

AND NO, GRACE BEFORE YOU
REHIND US ALL THAT YOU'VE BEEN
LEARNING PSYCHOLOGY I DON'T
MEAN IN AN "OH MY GOD I'M SO
OCD ABOUT KEEPING MY DESK
ORGANIZED" SORT OF WAY

I MEAN TRYING TO GET
ELLIOT KILLED WOULD
RESULT IN A DEAFENING
BOMBARDMENT OF
INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS
ABOUT HIS VOW



"INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS"?

THAT... DOESN'T SOUND FUN, BUT I WAS SORT OF HOPING FOR MORE THAN THAT



IT'S NOT A CONSEQUENCE TO TAKE LIGHTLY ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THERE'D BE NO UNDOING IT IF HE ACTUALLY DID GET YOU KILLED

IT WOULD BE DEBILITATING FOR HIM.

ALSO. HE'S AN IMMORTAL, SO HE'D POTENTIALLY BE STUCK WITH T FOR A VERY VERY LONG TIME.



I GUESS THAT'S--

BZZ BZZ



SUSAN SAYS TENSAIDED'S OFFERED TO GIVE HER THE DAY OFF IN CASE I NEED HER HELP WITH PROTECTING MY SECRET IDENTITY?



TENSAIDED? SUSAN'S BOSS? HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?!



UH--

BZZ BZZ

A-ASHLEY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT OUR COVER STORY!

OF COURSE SHE DOES. BUT TENSAIDED--



BZZ BZZ

AND SARAH URGENTLY NEEDS TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOMETHING!

SIGH





Haven't read *Question Mark*, the canon EGS:NP storyline about Sarah's magic mark? It can now ALSO be found in this story comic section, and I advise reading it before the next part! Link in the commentary below.



THE EMISSARY'S NOT IMPORTANT
RIGHT NOW WHAT MATTERS IS FIXING
THE AMBIENT MAGIC ENERGY PROBLEM.

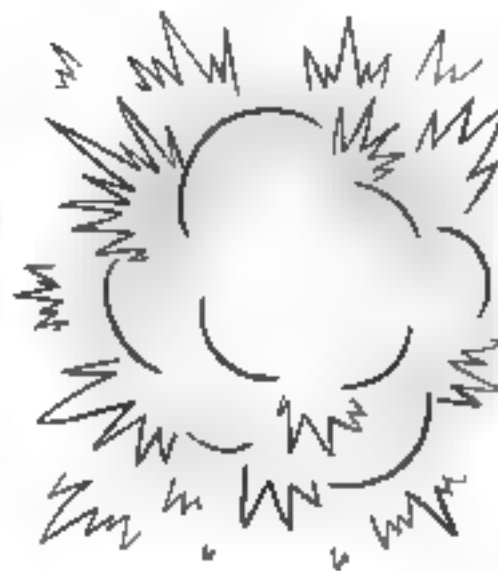
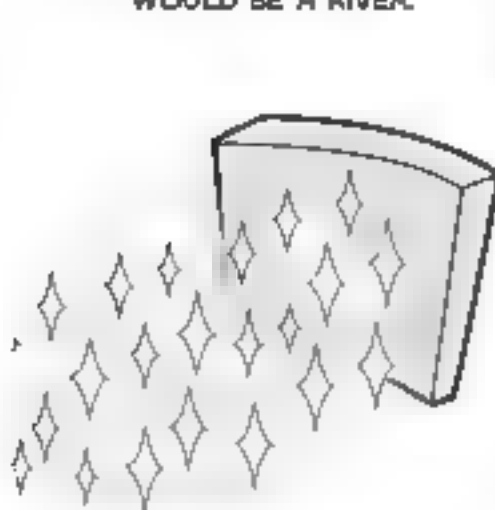
HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO
DO THAT?

YOU'RE NOT WHAT I'M ASKING
YOU TO DO IS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE
FOR *SOMEONE ELSE* TO DO IT

I EMPOWERED MOPERVILLE
BY CREATING WHAT AMOUNTS
TO A DAM IN THE FLOW OF
MAGIC IT HAS CREATED A
MASSIVE RESERVOIR OF MAGIC
WHERE NORMALLY THERE
WOULD BE A RIVER.

A DECENT
WIZARD PROPERLY
INSTRUCTED, COULD
EASILY DISMANTLE
THE DAM.

BUT IT WOULD
BE DANGEROUS TO
DO SO WHILE THE
RESERVOIR IS FULL.



TO TORTURE ANOTHER
METAPHOR IT WOULD BE THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SLOWLY
LETTING THE AIR OUT OF A
BALLOON, AND *POPPING IT*

YOU SAID I NEEDED
THAT ENERGY TO USE MY
SPELL THAT I "TOOK
BIG CHOMPS OUT OF IT"
WHEN I USED IT..

I NEED YOU
TO TAKE A LOT
OF CHOMPS.

THOUGH THE DAM METAPHOR IS
MORE APT, WHAT WITH THE EXCESS
MAGIC FLOODING OUTWARD.

YOU YOU
JUST WANT ME
TO USE MY
SPELL A LOT?

TWO OR THREE TIMES
AN HOUR, IF YOU CAN.
WHEN YOU'RE AWAKE
OF COURSE MORE, IF
YOU CAN MANAGE.

IF IT TAKES
LONGER BETWEEN
USES TO BE ABLE
TO DO IT AGAIN,
THAT MEANS IT'S
WORKING.

IF YOU
DO THAT I
ESTIMATE
THIS SHOULD
BE FIXABLE
IN A WEEK.

SO A WEEK
OF USING MY
SPELL A LOT TO
SAVE MAGIC...

AND THEN I
DON'T HAVE MAGIC
ANYMORE

SHE'S GOING TO HELP
SHE'LL CONSIDER IT THE
RIGHT THING TO DO
AND MAGIC CHANGING
WOULD RUIN THE SPELL
FOR HER ANYWAY

BESIDES, I
LIKE HER.

DO THIS,
AND I VOW TO
HELP YOUR MAGIC
AWAKEN, OR
WHATEVER THE
EQUIVALENT
BECOMES SHOULD
MAGIC STILL
CHANGE

I ALSO VOW NOT TO
USE ANY METHODS YOU
DISAPPROVE OF IN THE
COURSE OF FULFILLING
THAT VOW AND TO
DISCUSS THEM OPENLY
WITH YOU FIRST

MORALE, HOWEVER,
WILL IMPACT HER
PERFORMANCE. AND
HOW OFTEN SHE CAN
EVEN CAST THE SPELL

YOU'LL
REALLY HELP ME
AWAKEN?

SURE, WHY
NOT? I NEED
YOUR HELP, AND
IT'S SOMETHING
TO DO

HONESTLY, YOU HAVE NO
IDEA HOW BORED I GET TEACHING
AN APPRENTICE MAGIC USER
WOULD BE A NICE CHANGE OF PACE

APPRENTICE
MAGIC USER...

I'M...
AFRAID TO
ASK, BUT...

THIS ISN'T A TRICK I
MADE A MISTAKE AND
YOUR LOW MAGIC POWER
WITH A HUGE POWER
SPELL IS JUST WHAT I
NEED TO FIX IT WHAT
I OFFER IS PAYMENT
FOR THAT HELP

I'M ALSO NOT GOING
TO SWEAR YOU TO SECRECY
I STILL DON'T THINK YOU
SHOULD TELL TEDD'S
FATHER ABOUT YOUR SPELL,
BUT ONLY BECAUSE HE'LL
TELL PEOPLE YOU DON'T
WANT KNOWING.

EITHER WAY THAT'S
YOUR DECISION.

YOU SHOULD TELL
TEDD ALL ABOUT
THIS, AND HAVE
HIM OBSERVE YOU
WHILE YOU USE
YOUR SPELL.

HE CAN CONFIRM
THAT IT IS NOT
AFFECTING ANY-
THING ELSE, AND
USING THAT SPELL
IS ALL I AM ASKING
YOU TO DO.

HIS FATHER
HAS ALSO
LIKELY TOLD
HIM ABOUT
IMMORTAL
VOWS SO
CONFIRM THE
IMPORTANCE OF
THAT WITH HIM
AS WELL.

SO...
WILL YOU
HELP?

I...
UNLESS I LEARN
SOME REASON I
SHOULDN'T, YES.
I'LL HELP.

EXCELLENT!
I'LL SPEAK TO
YOU AGAIN WHEN
THE DAM'S
DESTROYED,
THEN!

WAIT!

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?







EEP!



YEUGH... THIS WOULD BE WEIRD ENOUGH EVEN WITHOUT TEDD LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT

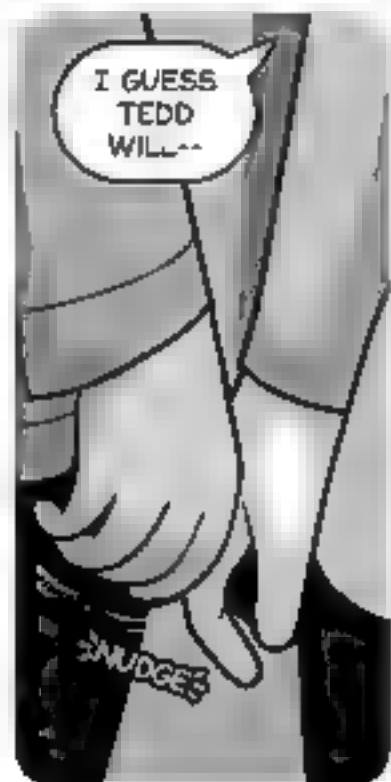


SO WEIRD...

I'M GLAD I KNOW THIS IS ALL IN MY HEAD.



I MEAN, I DON'T THINK IT DOES ANYTHING ELSE TO THE REAL WORLD.



I GUESS TEDD WILL--



--TE-ELLLL?!

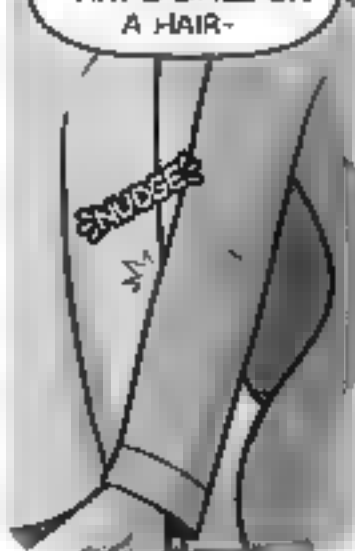
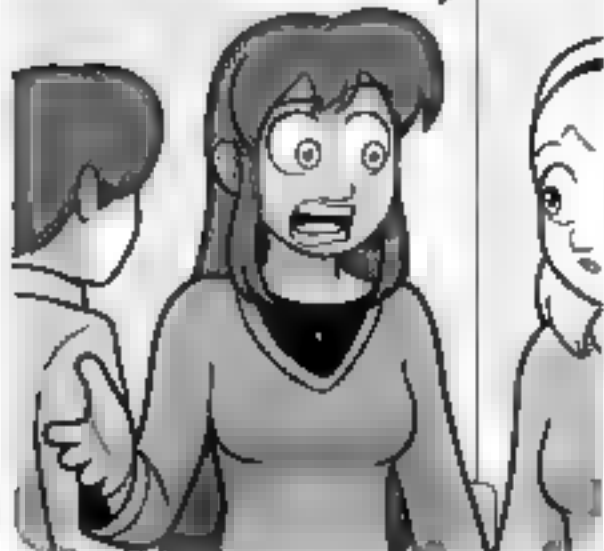


MAYBE TEDD CAN ALSO TELL ME HOW TO GET BODY SWAPS OFF A HAIR TRIGGER?!

I MEAN, SERIOUSLY! AT LEAST WHEN I SWITCHED WITH CAROL, I WAS WONDERING ABOUT MOVING HER!

MAYBE TOUCHING GRACE'S HAND MADE ME THINK ABOUT THAT, AND THAT'S WHY...? THAT'S STILL ON A HAIR-

--TRIGGUHGAH BUH!



WOW THIS IS REALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'M USED TO.



STOP THINKING ABOUT SWITCHING BODIES, BRAIN!

OR WHATEVER IT IS I'M DOING WRONG!



IF SHE HADN'T TOLD US ABOUT IT I'M NOT SURE I'D KNOW WHAT I WAS LOOKING AT



AND DON'T THINK ABOUT ELEPHANTS, EITHER! OR... WAIT

IF I'M TEDD, SHOULDN'T THAT ME OVER THERE LOOK LIKE SHE'S GLOWING OR SOMETHING?

MAYBE I DON'T COPY
PEOPLE'S POWERS WHEN I
DO THIS? ALTHOUGH..



BOX SAID I CAN
INTERACT WITH THINGS.
LIKE OPENING DOORS AND
STUFF WITH MY HANDS,
AND EVERYTHING WILL
STAY ACCURATE BUT..



SHE ALSO SAID
I COULD CHANGE
THINGS AT THE COST
OF THINGS BEING
LESS ACCURATE?



LIKE TEDD CAN
TURN INTO A GIRL NOW
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO
THAT EVEN WITHOUT
HIS SPELL, SO...



GIRLIFY!



OH MY GOD OH
MY GOD IT WORKED!
I NEED A...

WAIT COULD
I JUST...



MIRROR!



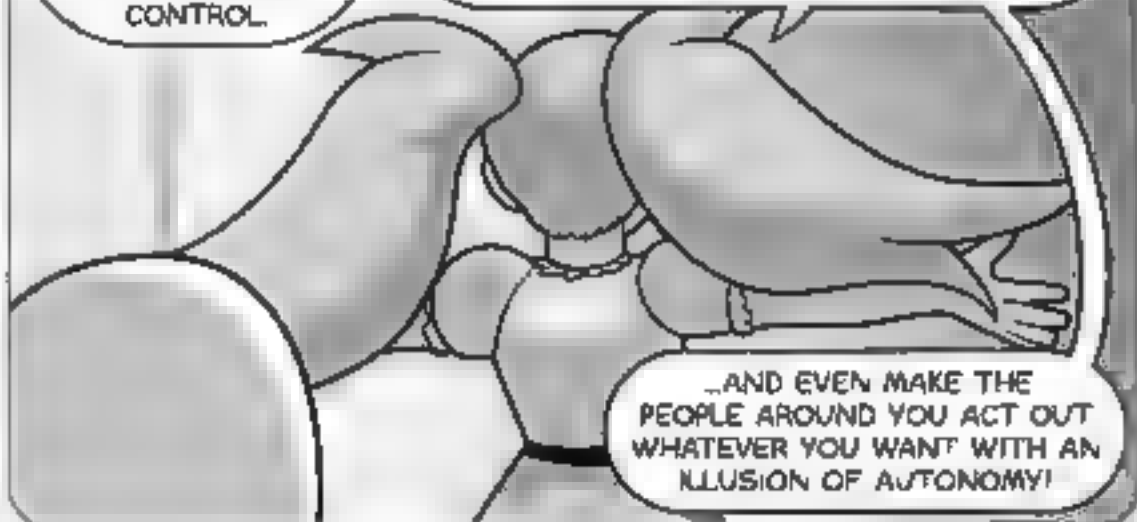
HOLY @\$#!





SIMPLY PUT YOUR
"TIME STOP" ABILITY
IS A MAGIC ILLUSION
WITHIN YOUR MIND
AND YOU'RE IN
CONTROL.

PRACTICE USING IT AND EVENTUALLY
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND THE
SIMULATION IN WAYS THAT IGNORE THE LAWS
OF PHYSICS. MAKE WHATEVER CHANGES YOU
WANT TO THE SIMULATION.



...AND EVEN MAKE THE
PEOPLE AROUND YOU ACT OUT
WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH AN
ILLUSION OF AUTONOMY!

I... SHOULD TRY EVERY
SORT OF THING I CAN
WHILE TEDD'S WATCHING
ME USE THE SPELL,
RIGHT? IT MIGHT TELL
HIM SOMETHING?



SO... GRACE, STOP
MAKING THAT FACE AND
ACT... GRACEFUL?



BLINK BLINK



TEDDY!



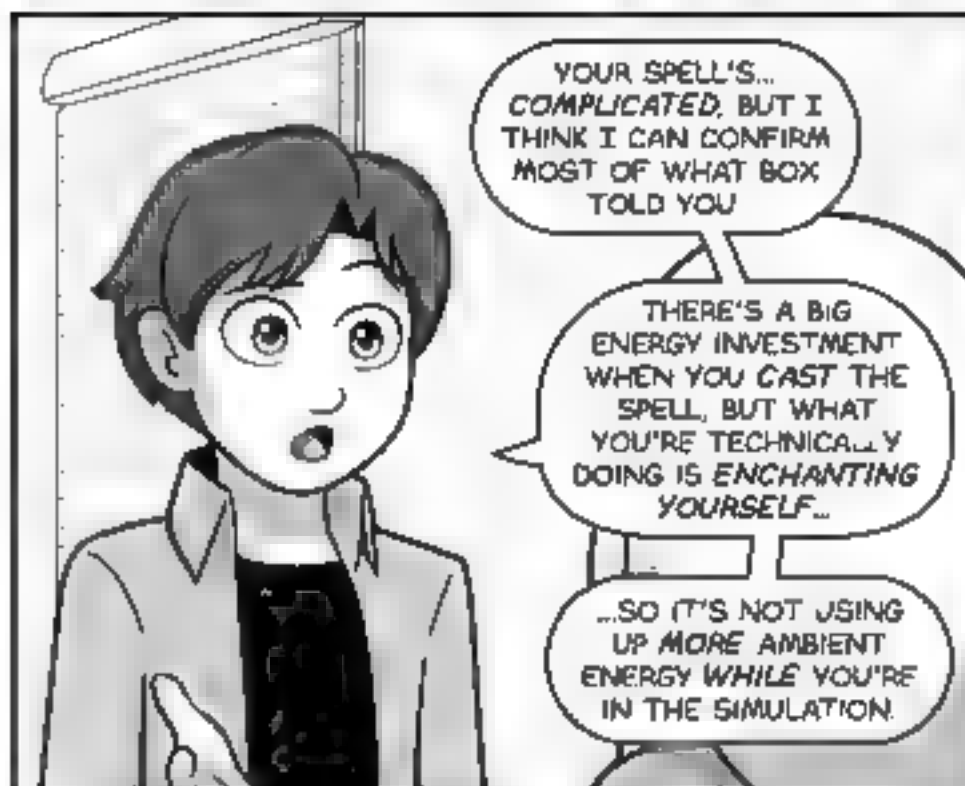
TH-THAT'S
NOT WHAT
GRACE WOULD
DO IN THIS
SITUATION!

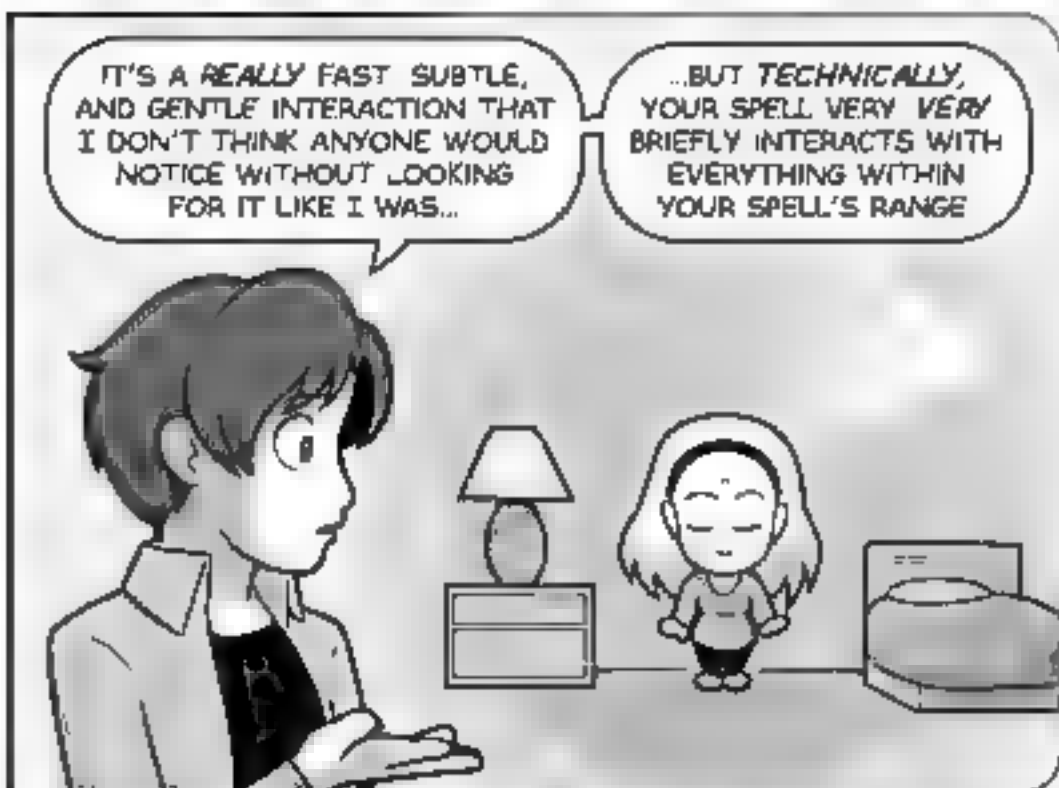
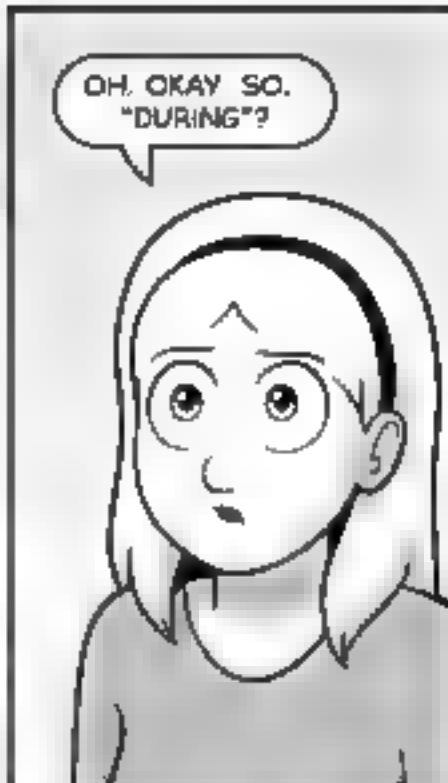
YOU WEREN'T
CONSIDERING THAT
YOU WERE THINKING
ABOUT "GRACEFUL"
BEHAVIOR, AND--

DON'T
YOU PIN
THIS ON
ME!



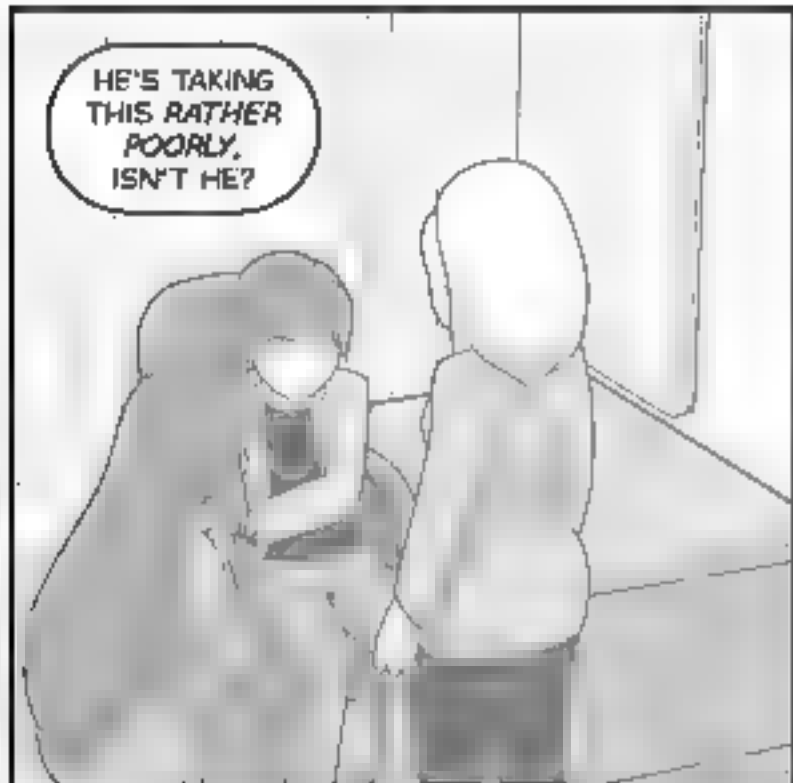
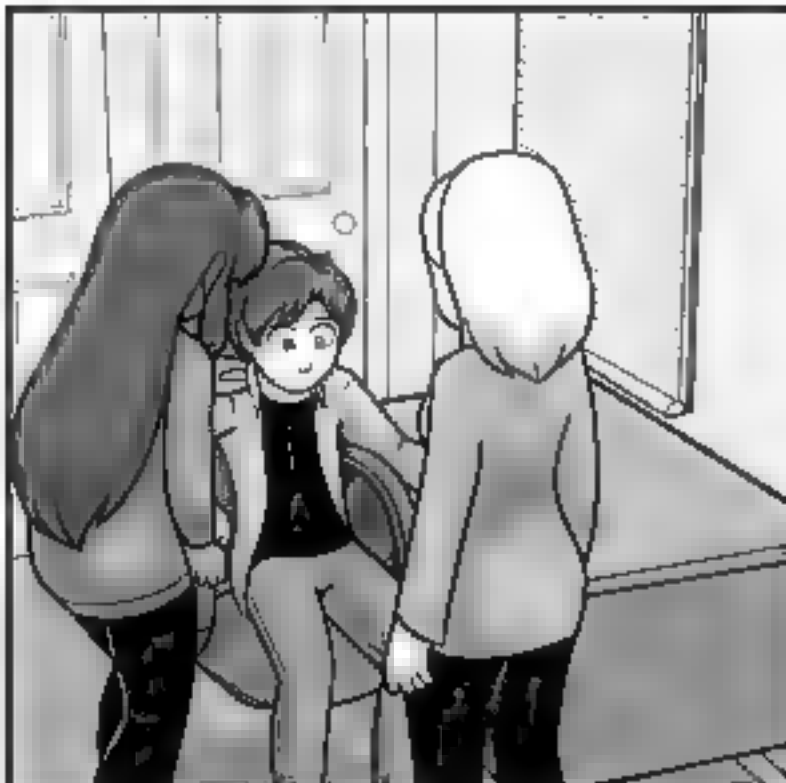














Insert incredibly lengthy and redundant recap of everything that happened during Elliot and Ashley's date, and earlier today (minus any mentions of Diane or vampires), from Eilen and Nanase's perspective here.







YOUR SUMMONS DIDN'T USE TO GLOW LIKE THAT



THEY CAN NOW THE AURA DOES... SOMETHING. SPELLBOOKS ARE HORRIBLY WRITTEN BUT IT HELPS AGAINST ABERRATIONS.

I THINK



ANDREA KILLED THE FIRST SIX, AND TARA FINISHED THE SEVENTH. THEY'RE BACK HOME NOW BUT NOW TEDD'S DAD KNOWS.



WELL... GOOD. IF ANY MORE SHOW UP, THEY'LL...

GOOD.



RIGHT SO ABOUT DIANE...



YOU'RE NOT ABOUT TO SUGGEST SHE'S MY LONG LOST TWIN SISTER, ARE YOU? BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT



I... WELL, WE THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE. THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T MENTION IT BEFORE NOW

DIANE'S ADOPTED. WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE TOO, AND IF YOUR MOTHER HADN'T TOLD YOU



I'M NOT ADOPTED. AND I WOULD KNOW IF I HAD A LONG LOST SISTER.



I WOULD KNOW BECAUSE OF THE HELL MY MOTHER WOULD HAVE RAISED MAKING HER FOUND.







JERRY? THE IMMORTAL?

I VOW
TO BE YOUR
ALLY



WE HAVEN'T SEEN
HIM OURSELVES, BUT SOME-
ONE WHO WASN'T A GUEST
MANIPULATED THINGS AT THE
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY IN
ORDER TO PROTECT DIANE



HE APPEARED OUT
OF NOWHERE TO
STOP DIANE FROM
SNEAKING A DRINK
OF THE ENCHANTED
PUNCH, AND SAID
HE WAS DOING IT
BECAUSE HE OWED
HER SISTER A DEBT

HE WAS
NOWHERE TO
BE FOUND AFTER
THAT AND DID
NOTHING TO KEEP
DIANE'S ADOPTED
SISTER, RHEA,
FROM DRINKING
THE PUNCH.



THAT'S... NOT
DEFINITIVE, BUT
FROM WHAT ELSE
YOU'VE TOLD ME
OF THAT NIGHT

I THINK
YOU'RE
RIGHT THE
NEW JERRY
PROTECTING
DIANE AND
YOU FITS.



WITH ALL THE
FREEDOM OF
MOVEMENT AND
OBSERVATION
THEY HAVE...

IF AN IMMORTAL
THINKS WE'RE SISTERS,
THEN... THEN WE
MUST BE...



I REACHED THAT
CONCLUSION FOR THE
SAME REASONS ELLEN
AND NANASE DID.

I DON'T
KNOW JACK.

SUSAN AND DIANE MAY OR MAY NOT BE SISTERS, BUT MY INTUITION SAYS THERE'S A VERY REAL CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM!



IF I APPEAR NOW AND TELL SUSAN HOW LITTLE I KNOW SHE WILL LIKELY NEVER WANT TO MEET DIANE AND WILL NEVER LEARN THE TRUTH! A TRUTH THAT MIGHT BE IMPORTANT TO HER!



THEREFORE AS HER ALLY, THE BEST THING I CAN DO FOR HER IS SAY...



ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!



...



OH THANK GOD. I ACTUALLY BELIEVE MY OWN HYPE



I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M FEELING RIGHT NOW...



A WHIRLWIND OF CONFLICTING EMOTIONS FIGHTING FOR DOMINANCE AND LEAVING YOU IN A STATE OF EMOTIONAL SHUTDOWN WITH AN UNDERCURRENT OF ANXIETY TO LET YOU KNOW YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?



THAT'S IT





SHE WANTS
TO MEET YOU



SHE . YOU TOLD
HER ABOUT ME?



DIDN'T HAVE TO
SHE'S SEEN YOUR
MOVIE REVIEWS.



AND SHE FIGURED OUT ON HER
OWN THAT RHEA WASN'T THE ONE
OWED THE FAVOR, AND PUT TWO
AND TWO TOGETHER.




SHE'S GOT
BRAINS LIKE
YOU TOO




.I.




I DON'T
KNOW IF I
WANT TO
MEET HER..




AT LEAST WE
HAVE MY FATHER
IN COMMON?




AND FOR THAT
TO BE TRUE...




WHAT KIND
OF CONNECTION
IS THAT?




YOU'RE NOT THE
ONLY ONE WHO'S
CONFUSED RIGHT
NOW SUSAN.



DIANE'S SPENT HER WHOLE
LIFE WITH HER ADOPTED FAMILY
SHE LOVES THEM VERY MUCH. BUT
SHE'S SPENT HER WHOLE LIFE
NOT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT
HER BIOLOGICAL PARENTS.



AND THEN SHE FINDS
OUT ABOUT YOU ON
TOP OF THAT SHE FINDS
OUT ABOUT VAMPIRES,
AND HOW YOU HAVE
THAT IN COMMON.



SHE FEELS THAT
WHIRLWIND THE SAME
AS YOU SUSAN.

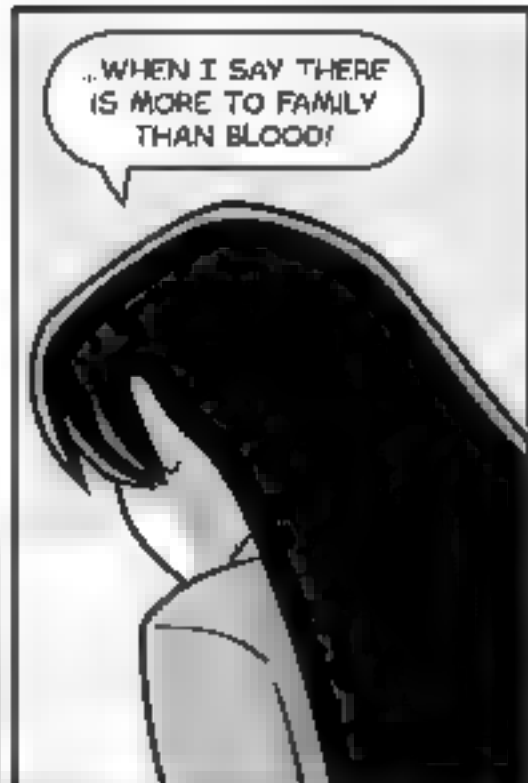
THAT
MAKES THIS
SIMPLE



SHE'S FAMILY



HELP HER.





HELLO. ADRIAN.



I'M AFRAID
I HAVE A CHORE
FOR YOU.

Some recapping later

...SO ONCE THE LEVELS
OF AMBIENT MAGIC
ARE LOW ENOUGH...

I WILL NEED YOU
TO TEAR DOWN THE
DAM FOR ME IT WILL
BE SIMPLE ENOUGH TO
DO AT THAT POINT

THIS WAS
TO BE YOUR
"APOCALYPSE"
THEN?

YAWN

YOU HAVE MUCH
MORE FREEDOM TO ACT
THAN IMMORTALS...

BUT THERE'S LITTLE YOU
CAN DO WITH YOUR POWER
WITHOUT ANGERING OTHER
IMMORTALS UNLESS MAGIC
IS ALREADY INVOLVED.

I WANTED TO CREATE
AN ENVIRONMENT IN
WHICH YOU'D BE ABLE
TO DO MORE

I HAD NO
IDEA THAT
MAGIC ITSELF
WOULD...

DON'T.

WHAT?

DO NOT PRETEND...

...THIS
WAS FOR
ME!

FORCING MAGIC
MARKS ON PEOPLE
WITHOUT THEIR
KNOWLEDGE OR
CONSENT

DESTROYING THE BALANCE
OF NATURE TO CREATE A MAGIC
RICH ENVIRONMENT INCREASING
THE DANGER OF THAT MAGIC
AND CREATING A BEACON FOR
MONSTERS TO FLOCK TO.

THE WILLING ENDANGERMENT
OF INNOCENT LIVES JUST TO
MAKE THE EXISTENCE OF MAGIC
MORE DIFFICULT TO DENY?

NONE OF
THOSE ARE THINGS
I WANT AND YOU...
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE
KNOW THAT!

THIS IS JUST
ANOTHER EXCUSE
FOR YOU TO SPREAD
MISERY AND MAYHEM
TO ALLEVIATE YOUR
OWN BOREDOM!

THAT

THAT'S NOT TRUE I
KNOW YOU DON'T CARE
FOR MY METHODS BUT
THIS HAS ALL BEEN
FOR FAMILY

NOAH NEARLY
DIED FOR YOUR
Boredom

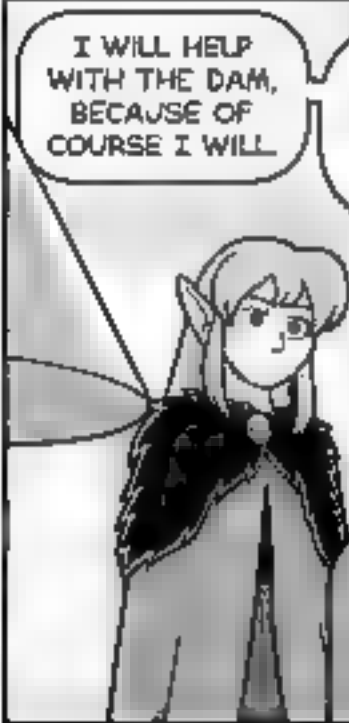
HOW WAS
THAT FOR
FAMILY?!




DON'T BLAME ME FOR NOAH PUTTING HIMSELF IN DANGER! YOU'RE HIS GUARDIAN! YOU'RE THE ONE LETTING HIM PLAY SUPER HERO!



ANOTHER "HARSH LESSON" THEN?



I WILL HELP WITH THE DAM, BECAUSE OF COURSE I WILL




ONCE THAT'S DONE, IF YOU TRULY WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME PLEASE DIRECT YOUR BOREDOM TOWARDS HELPING PEOPLE




I HELPED RID THE WORLD OF WEREWOLVES.

I'D SAY I'VE DONE ENOUGH FOR THE WORLD AT LARGE




YOU HELPED YOURSELF GET VIOLENT REVENGE ON VICTIMS OF A CURSE

YOU MADE NO EFFORT TO FIND A CURE

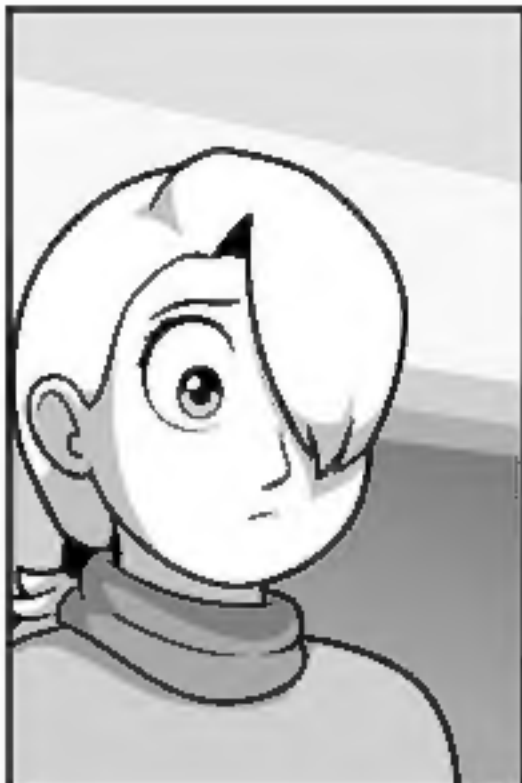


THEY KILLED YOUR FATHER!



FATHER WOULD HATE WHAT YOU'VE BECOME





I AM NOT SURE WHAT I WOULD SAY TO HIM WERE WE TO MEET AGAIN. MY FEELINGS FOR HIM ARE... COMPLICATED.

EVEN MORE SO NOW, WITH DAMIEN DEAD, AND REVENGE NO LONGER MY FOCUS.

I BELIEVE I KNOW SOMETHING OF WHAT YOU ARE FEELING, AND THINK NO LESS OF YOU.



SO IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE BOX WAS LYING ABOUT YOUR SPELL. SHE DIDN'T MENTION THE SCANNING, BUT SHE TOLD YOU TO HAVE ME LOOK AT IT, SO...

BUT YOU DON'T BELIEVE THE REST OF IT.

I THINK SHE WANTS TO TEAR DOWN THE DAM FOR SOME REASON AND NEEDS THE ENERGY USED UP TO DO IT.

WHAT I DON'T THINK SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT IS *MAGIC* CHANGING IF SHE DOESN'T!

THINK ABOUT IT. SHE JUST GAVE YOU THE SPELL THAT SHE NEEDS YOU TO USE OVER AND OVER, AND SHE KNOWS YOU'VE WANTED MAGIC FOR A LONG TIME...

...SO SHE TOLD YOU IF YOU DON'T DO AS SHE SAYS, MAGIC WILL *CHANGE*, AND YOU'LL LOSE THE SPELL ANYWAY!

BUT IF SHE KNOWS ME THAT WELL, ISN'T THAT OVERKILL?

IT'S NOT LIKE I'D REFUSE TO HELP, AND SHE SWORE TO HELP ME AWAKEN...

OVERKILL GETS THE JOB DONE! AND IT ADDS A TICKING CLOCK TO GET IT DONE *FASTER!*

TEDD?

BOX ISN'T LYING.

I'VE... MET THE EMISSARY OF MAGIC.

